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CONTENTS

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Russia Proposes Cease-Fire Plan for Nagorno-Karabakh *[Moscow Radio]* 1
Envoy Explains Russian Stand on Confiict *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Paper Scores Black Sea Fleet 'War of Nerves' *[IZVESTIYA 7 May]* 1
Serb Delegation Visits Moscow *[Sarajevo Radio]* 2
Russians Evacuated From Yemen Return to Moscow *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Russia Must Forge RSA Ties 'From Scratch' *[IZVESTIYA 7 May]* 2
Diplomatic Sources Cited on Syrian Debt Issue *[London AL-HAYAH 7 May]* 3
Nuclear Situation on Korean Peninsula Assessed *[Moscow International]* 4

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Further Reportage on Victory Day Celebrations 5
Yeltsin, Grachev Congratulate War Veterans *[INTERFAX]* 5
Grachev Says Armed Forces 'Fit for War' *[INTERFAX]* 5
Leading Figures Comment on WWII Victory *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
15,000 Opposition Supporters March in Moscow *[INTERFAX]* 5
Opposition Leaders Speak *[INTERFAX]* 6
Rutskoy Attends Memorial Service *[INTERFAX]* 6
Opposition Urges Early Presidential Elections *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Yeltsin Signs Law on Federal Assembly Deputies *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Yeltsin Edict Seeks To Control New Oil Companies *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 7 May]* 7
Yeltsin Signs Edict on Utilization of Foreign Labor *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 7 May]* 7
Khimki Head Denies Claims Over Deputy's Murder *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 7 May]* 8
National Socialist Party Founded in Novosibirsk *[INTERFAX]* 8
Counterintelligence Service Catches Arms Smugglers *[INTERFAX]* 8
Smuggled Weapons Seized at Moscow Airport *[INTERFAX]* 9
Court Case Against '91 Coupists Abandoned *[ITAR-TASS]* 9

Economic Issues

Nonstate Banks' Potential in Economy Viewed *[TRUD 7 May]* 9
Radicalism in Agriculture 'Unacceptable' *[ITAR-TASS]* 10

Military & Space Issues

Mir Cosmonauts Undergo Medical Checks *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Another Russian Pacific Fleet Officer Murdered *[ITAR-TASS]* 10

Regional Affairs

Former USSR Republics Observe Victory Day *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
Kozyrev Attends 20,000-Strong Rally in Murmansk *[Moscow TV]* 12
Donetsk Militia Forestalls Terrorist Action *[Moscow TV]* 12
'Soviet Power' Set To Return in Mordovia *[IZVESTIYA 6 May]* 12
Police, Khimki Mayor Trade Charges on Deputy's Murder
[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 7 May] 13
No Plans To Exploit Oil Field Near Kaliningrad *[Vilnius Radio]* 13
Questions Over Phasing Out Plutonium-Producing AES *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 7 May]* 13
Spiridonov Reported Elected Head of Komi Republic *[Moscow Radio]* 14
Chelyabinsk, Chechnya Local Elections Eyed *[IZVESTIYA 7 May]* 14
Ammonia, Arsenic Found in Novosibirsk Reservoir *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
Decree on Supporting Buryatia's Economy *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 7 May]* 16
Video Recalls Plesetsk Tragedies in 1973, 1980 *[Russian TV]* 17
Success in Fiber-Optic Technology Development Reported *[Moscow TV]* 17

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Shmarov, U.S. Envoy Discuss Nukes, Conversion *[TRUD 7 May]* 18
Russian Navy Plane Denied Landing at Belbek *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Russians Pelt Ukrainian Sailors With Eggs *[UNIAR]* 18
Debts to Former USSR Countries 'Rising Steeply' *[UNIAR]* 18

Russian Services Implicated in Rukh Leader's Disappearance *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 5 May]* 18
Deployment of Peacekeepers to Bosnia Criticized *[RATUSHA 28 Apr]* 19

National Affairs

First Crimean Parliament Session Opens in Simferopol *[Radio Rossii]* 19
Deputy Calls For Return to Russia *[Kiev Radio]* 20
Parties, Organizations Call For 'Interethnic Harmony' *[NARODNA HAZETA No. 19]* 20
Nationalists Campaign in Lvov *[RATUSHA 28 Apr]* 21
Local Councils Oppose Dry Nuclear Waste Storage *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 6 May]* 21

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Rally at U.S. Embassy Protests 'Intervention' in Yugoslavia *[VECHERNIY MINSK 5 May]* 22
KGB Top Officers Discuss New Structure *[RESPUBLIKA 4 May]* 22
Hryb Views Presidential System, Neutrality, Army *[NARODNAYA GAZETA 6 May]* 22
Newspaper Editors Announce Suspension of Publication *[NARODNAYA GAZETA 28 Apr]* 23
Newspapers Resume Publication *[NARODNAYA GAZETA 6 May]* 23

Moldova

Ilascu Death Penalty Allegedly Changed to Prison Term
[Bucharest EVENIMENTUL ZILEI 5 May] 24

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Reduced Staffing Causes Problems at Semipalatinsk *[Russian TV]* 25

Kyrgyzstan

Chamber of Commerce Signs Trade Agreement With Kazakhstan *[Bishkek Radio]* 25

Tajikistan

Russian Border Guards Warn 'Opposition Guerrillas' *[ITAR-TASS]* 25

Uzbekistan

Report on Day of Europe Celebrations in Tashkent *[Tashkent Radio]* 25
Report on Consumer Goods Production *[Tashkent Radio]* 25

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Parliament Awaiting Azerbaijan's Signed Protocol *[Yerevan Radio]* 26
Minister Says Russian Troops Needed for Karabakh Peace *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Armenia Seeks Good Relations With Turkey *[Sofia STANDART NEWS 4 May]* 26

Azerbaijan

Nagorno-Karabakh Forces Break Cease-Fire *[Radio Rossii]* 27
Baku Reports Nearly 100 Armenian Troops Killed *[Baku Radio]* 27
Azerbaijanis Violate Cease-Fire 10 May *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Mojahedin Involvement in Karabakh Fighting Alleged *[TRUD 7 May]* 27
Failed CIS Mediation Effort Viewed *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 7 May]* 28
Delegate Comments on Bishkek Talks *[AZERBAYDZHAN 7 May]* 28
Former Defense Minister Under Investigation *[AZERBAYDZHAN 7 May]* 29
Work of Internal Affairs Ministry Viewed *[AZERBAYDZHAN 7 May]* 29

Georgia

Shevardnadze Discusses Significance of Victory Day *[Tbilisi Radio]* 30
Russian Official on Introducing Peacekeeping Troops *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
Situation in Abkhazia Improves 'Considerably' *[IBERIA]* 31
Georgian Bands Continue Attacks in Abkhazia *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
Mkhedrioni To Hand Weapons Over to Defense Ministry *[Tbilisi Radio]* 31
Constitutional Democratic Party Head Resigns *[IBERIA]* 31
Radioactive Equipment Stolen From Tbilisi Institute *[Moscow TV]* 31

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Laar Returns From France, Notes Emphasis on European Ties *[ETA]* 32
Laar: No Intention of Making Concessions to Russia *[BNS]* 32

Laar Calls for Clarification of Grachev Remarks *[Tallinn Radio]* 32
Meri Visit to Portugal Interrupted by Grachev Statement *[ETA]* 32
Alleged Military Alert Said To Force Meri's 'Hasty Return' *[ETA]* 33
President Demands Grachev Statement Clarification *[Tallinn Radio]* 33
Ministry Official: Russia Has Not Discarded Power Politics *[BNS]* 33
Ministry Statement Notes 'Stalemate' in Talks With Russia
[Tallinn Ministry of Foreign Affairs] 34
Legislator Says Russia, Grachev Waging 'Psychological War' *[ETA]* 34
President Meri Receives Polish Counterpart *[Tallinn Radio]* 34
Notes Common History With Poland *[ETA]* 34
Polish President Meets With Meri, Laar *[BNS]* 35
Walesa Cited on Russian Ties, Free Trade *[ETA]* 35
Discusses Presidential Elections *[Warsaw Radio]* 35
Prime Minister Departs on Official Visit to UK *[ETA]* 36
Foreign Minister's 9 May Address to WEU *[Tallinn Ministry of Foreign Affairs]* 36
Liberal Democrats, Right-Wing Youth Movement Sign Agreement *[ETA]* 37
Luik: Baltics Want Free Trade Area With Visegrad States *[ETA]* 37
Ruling Coalition Leader Cited on Falling Approval Ratings *[BNS]* 38
Official: People Entering Russian Offices Should Be Watched *[ETA]* 38

Latvia

Premier, Defense Minister Begin Visit to France *[BNS]* 38
Birkavs Hopes for Early EU Membership *[Duesseldorf HANDELSBLATT 7 May]* 39
Premier Visits Skrunda Radar in Move Toward Transfer *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 6 May]* 39
Latvian, Russian Figures on Army Units Differ *[Riga Radio]* 40
Revised Draft of Citizenship Law Prepared *[DIENA 25 Apr]* 40
Daily Publishes Opinion Poll on Party Popularity *[LETA]* 40
Coalition Faction Reportedly Considers Replacing Ministers *[LETA]* 41
Pact on Visa-Free Travel Concluded With Slovakia *[LETA]* 41
Victory Day Rally Recalls 'Good Times' *[BNS]* 41

Lithuania

Brazauskas Marks Anniversary of War's End *[ITAR-TASS]* 41
Reaction to Grachev Statement on Suspending Troop Pullout 41
Parliament Head 'Alarmed' by Remarks *[INTERFAX]* 41
Statement Shows 'Disrespect' for Estonia *[Vilnius Radio]* 42
Landsbergis on Russian 'Blackmail' *[Vilnius Radio]* 42
Landsbergis Views Reasons for Comment *[BNS]* 42
Envoy on Prospects of Agreement With Russia *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 7 May]* 42
French Embassy Cited on WEU Associate Membership *[ELTA]* 43
President Criticizes Vilnius City Council *[BNS]* 43
'State Coup Scenario' Said To Serve LDDP Activities *[RESPUBLIKA 26 Apr]* 43
Commanders Express Distrust in Security Committee *[RESPUBLIKA 26 Apr]* 44
IMF Threatens To Suspend Credits *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
Inflation Hits Low in Apr; Expected To Rise in May *[BNS]* 45

Russia Proposes Cease-Fire Plan for Nagorno-Karabakh

LD1005115594 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Russia has proposed a three-stage plan for a settlement of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh. Vladimir Kazimirov, Russia's ambassador-at-large, told journalists in Baku that a cease-fire and disengagement of the warring sides are envisaged under the first stage, which would last six days. A withdrawal from all occupied territories, except for the towns of Shusha and Lachin, must take place during the second stage, which would last 34 days. During this stage there would also be an exchange of POW's and refugees, who must return to their homes. Withdrawal from Shusha and Lachin will be tackled separately. Finally, the status of Nagorno-Karabakh will be examined during the third stage of the settlement.

According to the Russian ambassador, consensus between the sides has been attained to date, perhaps in the view that the conflict cannot be settled in one step and should be resolved stage-by-stage. The Russian draft plan, which consists of three principal stages, Kazimirov said, is based on precisely this premise. The first stage includes a reliably secured cease-fire and an end to hostilities and should take six days to achieve, including the disengagement of forces. The second stage envisages withdrawal from all the occupied territories (except Shusha and Lachin), a quick exchange of prisoners and hostages, the restoration of communications, and the return of refugees to their native land. The draft assigns 34 days to complete all this.

The issue of freeing Shusha and Lachin will be examined separately two weeks after cease-fire is established. The third stage is for negotiations to study the issue of Nagornyy Karabakh's [Nagorno-Karabakh's] status.

At the same time, Kazimirov did not rule out a possibility of the second and third stages taking considerably more time than envisaged, for "this is a very complicated process."

Envoy Explains Russian Stand on Conflict

LD0905172894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1536 GMT 9 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sevindzh Abdullayeva, Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku, 9 May—At a news conference today, Russian Federation special envoy Vladimir Kazimirov set out Russia's conceptual approaches to settling the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict and eliminating its consequences. The diplomat explained the need for the news conference by a desire to clarify the main points of a Russian draft plan for settling the armed conflict in order to dispel conjectures surrounding it.

In connection with this, Kazimirov stressed with regret that some commentators on the draft had been trying to accuse Russia of "a striving to implement its imperial ambitions" and "an obvious preference for a particular side." According to him, this is being done in order to discredit Russian policy in the region. On the other hand, he noted, certain forces understand that if the conflict is settled with Russia's active involvement, this will strengthen Russia's influence in the Transcaucasus, something they obviously dislike.

According to the diplomat, his country is pursuing the only goal of establishing good and efficient relations with Azerbaijan and Armenia. He specifically stressed that "a bias toward either side would be Russia's historical miscalculation, something it cannot afford."

Touching upon the much talked about issue of Russia's striving to station its troops in Azerbaijan under the guise of peacekeeping forces, the special envoy noted that "even earlier his country offered to bring disengagement forces into the region, believing this form to be the most efficient one for resolving the conflict." However, Kazimirov said, the institution of international observers cannot be efficient in this case, in the absence of a stable cease-fire and an end of hostilities.

Paper Scores Black Sea Fleet 'War of Nerves'

PM0905135994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 May 94 p 2

[Viktor Litovkin report: "Until Black Sea Fleet Is Divided Up, War of Nerves Continues"]

[Text] News agency reports are often like a psychological machinegun burst. It is sometimes even terrifying to take hold of them since you suddenly have another bomb on your hands.

Our correspondent in the Crimea had not had time to tell us of a provocative report on an allegedly political attack on the wife of the commander of the Black Sea Fleet before the editorial office received another similar report from ITAR-TASS. From the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's press service. They accuse their Russian colleagues of "preparing to hijack to Russia missile-carrying Tu-22 aircraft from Black Sea Fleet air force regiments."

Ukraine claims that it is planned to make this flight against the backdrop of routine tactical air exercises I called one of the leaders of the Navy's air forces and asked: Is this true? The general was indignant: "It's out-and-out lies." And he complained that pilots are not being allowed to fly because of these persistent suspicions for which there is incidentally no documentary corroboration. And a pilot, even a top-notch pilot, who has spent a month or two on the ground, is no longer a pilot, but at best a trainee. Well, he asked sadly, have people now lost the right to a profession, to earn a crust, owing to the political wrangling?

I had just cleared up the situation involving the aircraft when television announced: Army General Vitaliy Radetskyy, Ukrainian defense minister, has banned Admiral Igor Kasatonov, first deputy commander in chief of the Navy, from flying to Sevastopol to celebrate the 50th

anniversary of the city's liberation from the fascist occupiers, a ceremony to which the Russian admiral was invited by 20 organizations in Sevastopol.

I contacted the admiral's aides. They confirmed that this had happened—Kasatonov stayed in Moscow while Vice Admiral Ivan Vasilyev, Navy deputy commander for rear services, had to fly to Sevastopol. His candidacy caused no particular objections in Kiev's military-ministerial circles.

Admittedly, the fax machine has "fired" another mind-blowing charge—an open letter from his former fellow servicemen in the Northern Fleet—at another admiral, this time a Ukrainian: Volodymyr Beskorovaynyy, commander of that country's Navy. What epithets the admirals and captains first and second rank directed at him. I cannot cite them—the paper would not withstand it. And all because Beskorovaynyy behaved unworthily, according to the men of the Northern Fleet, during the conflict with the Cheleken hydrographic ship.

Not only is it surprising that the open letter carries 30 signatures and names with posts ranging from deputy commander of a formation of nuclear submarines to the commander of an individual unit—a few years ago you would have been flung in jail for that kind of list—but also that undoubtedly worthy people hope that appeals of this kind today can stop a particular political action.

I do not want to accuse anyone, much less defend anyone. I just want one thing—a truce in this war of nerves and mind-blowing information. I realize that it is pointless urging politicians to behave nobly, but perhaps journalists can do so by declaring a moratorium on reports that cause political explosions.

Serb Delegation Visits Moscow

AU0905155594 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] A delegation of the Serbian Civic Council is visiting Moscow. Heading the delegation is Mirko Pejanovic, member of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency and chairman of the council. Vlastimir Mijovic has the details:

[Begin Mijovic recording] The main goal of the Serbian Civic Council delegation is to acquaint Russian officials with the real situation in which the Serbian people of Bosnia-Herzegovina have found themselves. So far, Moscow has only been visited by representatives of the group that rejected the idea of a united Bosnia-Herzegovina and with arms and crimes tried to draw (word indistinct] ethnic borders. Through grave manipulations and disinformation, the impression has been created in Russia that all Bosnian Serbs support such an option (?embodied) in Karadzic's (policy).

In the scheduled talks, the delegation headed by Mirko Pejanovic will try to acquaint Russian officials with the concept that the Serbian Civic Council advocates, which is the survival of the Serbian population that is true to joint life and a united state.

Our delegation will be received tomorrow by Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the Foreign Committee of the Russian Duma and a very influential person of Russian foreign policy. The delegation will later meet with members of the Foreign Committee and representatives of all parliamentary groups. It is still not known whether our delegation will attend the parliamentary debate on the Bosnian crisis initiated in the Duma. The Duma leadership has still not decided whether it will hold an open debate or behind closed doors. If the session is open, our representatives will also be given an opportunity to speak.

In the next two days, the Serbian Civic Council delegation will hold talks at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and will also visit the patriarchy of the Russian Orthodox Church. Its main task is to present the situation in which the Bosnian Serbs have found themselves, as well as the overall political views of the government in Sarajevo.

As Mirko Pejanovic and Miro Lazovic have told us, they are going to convey an official invitation to Boris Yeltsin to visit Bosnia-Herzegovina. They will also try to arrange a visit by a high-level Bosnia-Herzegovina delegation to Russia. In any case, through the representatives of the Serbian Civic Council, Russian top politicians will have an opportunity to learn about another option that is entirely opposite to the one on the Serbian issue that representatives of [word indistinct] the Belgrade authorities have been presenting to them.

It is difficult to expect a major advance overnight, but it is certain that this visit will contribute to Russian circles attaining a better view of the Bosnian crisis. [end recording]

Russians Evacuated From Yemen Return to Moscow

LD1005052894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0514 GMT 10 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Perkina]

[Text] Moscow May 10 TASS—Two TU-154 airliners touched down at Moscow's Sheremetyevo-2 airport last night [9 May]. They brought home Russian citizens from Yemen. The first plane broght 143 and the second—73 passengers. The flights ended the second stage of evacuation of our countrymen from the country engulfed in the flames of the civil war.

Press secretary of the Russian Ministry for Emergencies Yekaterina Glebova told ITAR-TASS that another Russian plane is to leave Yemen on Tuesday at 10:00. Flights will be made till all russian nationals are evacuated from that country.

Russia Must Forge RSA Ties 'From Scratch'

PM0905130394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 May 94 p 3

[Boris Pilyatskin report: "Russia Has To Make Friends With USSR's Old Friends. Nelson Mandela Will Become RSA's First Black President 10 May"]

[Excerpts] Work is being completed on a dais enclosed by three layers of bulletproof glass in front of the massive government building in Pretoria. The official inauguration of the Republic of South Africa's new president, Nelson Mandela, will take place here Tuesday 10 May. [passage omitted]

Russia will not be represented even by the premier. Admittedly, Russia's Foreign Ministry has issued a statement expressing a "sense of profound satisfaction" at the restoration of racial and social justice in the RSA and voicing hope for the further development of the good relations that have taken shape between our countries. It is, however, appropriate to note that these relations have taken shape only over the last two and a half years, while previously the USSR and the RSA were separated by a thick curtain of mutual hostility and enmity.

However, there were long-standing friendly ties between the CPSU Central Committee and the ANC and in particular with the Communist Party, which was considered one of the most dogmatic and obedient to Moscow in the world communist movement. Money and weapons passed down secret channels at Soviet taxpayers' expense for the "liberation struggle" in South Africa. Groups of gunmen were trained on USSR territory. Perestroyka put an end to all that. And when reforms began in the RSA as well, links with the "friends" were put on ice.

At the start of the breakup of the USSR the then Soviet leadership just did not care about the RSA. The Kremlin forgot to telephone Mandela when he came out of jail. U.S. President George Bush's telephone call of congratulations was virtually the first. The ANC leader's trip to Moscow failed to take place five times. The invitation from Mikhail Gorbachev was either awkwardly sent at a time when it was known that Mandela was leaving on another foreign trip or Moscow refused to host the South African visitor owing to internal disarray.

It is to Mandela's credit that he never made digs at the former "luminary of socialism." He only remarked when he was given the Nobel Peace Prize last year that the only country that has always helped the ANC is Norway. On the other hand South Africa's Communists abused Gorbachev roundly, in August 1991 they congratulated the putschists, and they blatantly expressed solidarity with the Supreme Soviet in its opposition to Russia's president. The ANC and the Communist Party in unison with Russia's Communists protested the establishment of diplomatic relations with the RSA and President De Klerk's visit [to Russia].

Now that the ANC has come to power Moscow has to organize relations from scratch. I do not think that South African Communists, influential within the ANC leadership, will change their views of the democratic transformations within Russia. But one can hope for pragmatism from the new RSA president. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic Sources Cited on Syrian Debt Issue

PM0905171594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 May 94 p 6

[Ibrahim Humaydi report: "Russian Diplomatic Sources Deny Agreement With Syria on Debts Question"]

[Text] Damascus—Russian diplomatic sources have confirmed to AL-HAYAH that the negotiations between Russia and Syria are still continuing in order to secure a mechanism guaranteeing a practical solution to the debts issue, the "obstacle" that has hampered the development of Russian-Syrian relations in recent years.

The sources said that technical experts from the two countries will meet shortly to agree on the method of paying Syria's military debts, which total some $11 billion. This sum includes overdue payments totaling $1.5 billion owed to the former Soviet Union for weapons exported to Damascus.

The sources went on to say that, "despite the two sides' agreement during the meeting early last month between Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and President Hafiz al-Asad on the principle of solving the problem, the two sides still have not solved it." The sources said: "We need tireless negotiations."

Regarding the claim that Moscow has agreed to write off about 90 percent of the debts, the diplomatic sources said that "it is not an agreement. It was an offer made during the negotiations." The sources pointed out that the "Syrians wanted to pay about 8 percent of the debts in Syrian pounds or local commodities, but the Russians insisted that the Syrians make 20 percent of every payment in foreign currency." The sources said that the talks "are continuing between us and our friends in Damascus." In a statement to AL-HAYAH well informed Russian sources expected an agreement to be reached on writing off about 75 percent of the Russian debts, provided Syria pays the remaining 25 percent and the value of the deals between the two countries "in hard currency and immediately."

The sources commended the military and trade agreements signed recently in Damascus during Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets' visit to the Syrian capital. The agreements provide for exporting spare parts for Syria's Russian weapons and Syrian factories. They also provide for Russian companies' participation in international tenders announced by Syrian public establishments, as well as participation in extracting Syrian phosphate.

The Russian sources described what has been reached so far as "an achievement" compared with the situation a few years ago. They pointed out that "the differences were big" between the two sides with regard to resolving the debts issue. The Syrians linked it with the political role played by the former Soviet Union and with whether Russia is its heir.

The sources said that the two sides have now agreed to solve the issue. They have also agreed that the Russian Federation is the heir of the Soviet state. They have agreed on separating the debts question from the other questions

and from the political role Moscow is seeking to play in the peace process. The sources said that the CIS' agreement on its share in the Soviet Union's legacy has contributed to reaching an understanding with the Syrians.

As for the Russian initiative to convene a "Madrid-2" and the active Russian role in the peace process, the sources said that Moscow is seeking "to compete with Washington in the peace negotiations." They said that the Russian role is leading to a balance, and "any balance is not going to hamper the peace process or cause any party to adopt a hard line. On the contrary, it will give the parties self-confidence and enable them to take courageous decisions."

Nuclear Situation on Korean Peninsula Assessed

SK1005101994 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1000 GMT 9 May 94

[Commentary by Aleksey Kondratyev from the "Focus on Asia" program]

[Text] The current situation on the Korean peninsula can be compared to continuous cloudy weather. It is not the time to repeat the causes for the aggravating situation on the Korean peninsula and tension in Northeast Asia. However, we could derive a series of conclusions from the current situation.

First, the International Atomic Energy Agency's [IAEA] pressure on the DPRK to accept full-scope inspections [chonmyon sachal] of its nuclear objects could not bring about any substantial results. On the contrary, it made the other party adhere to its position more. The IAEA inspection team keeps raising its conditions even though the visas for entering the DPRK are in its hands.

Regarding this, a recent DPRK statement declared that if the IAEA does not withdraw its demand for full-scope inspections, the replacement of the fuel rods of the graphite-moderated reactor in Yongbyon will be carried on without the participation of the agency's inspection team.

The threat of imposing international economic sanctions on Pyongyang is not working either.

Second, the DPRK is demanding a resolution of the nuclear issue on the peninsula through DPRK-U.S. talks. Regarding this, the United States has raised some conditions for the resumption of the talks. Consequently, a resolution is not foreseen yet.

Under current circumstances, Moscow has proposed an international conference regarding the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. Some countries are supporting the proposal. Whether through the DPRK-U.S. talks or an international conference, in any case, the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula must be resolved. The sooner the resolution of the issue comes, the better.

As for the peninsula, tension around the peninsula may rise even more leading to an unpredictable result. All must show utmost effort and self-control not to turn a quarrel into an armed collision.

Political Issues

Further Reportage on Victory Day Celebrations

Yeltsin, Grachev Congratulate War Veterans

LD0905145594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Russian President Yeltsin has called Sebastopol [Sevastopol] an unfading glory of all the Russians. The day of the heroic defense of the city symbolize the courage displayed by the people, says the telegram of greetings the Russian president sent to the residents of Sebastopol on the occasion of the 50th anniversary since the liberation of the city from the fascist invaders.

Today, at the remarkable day of the hero-city, says the telegram, I convey to you, dear residents of Sebastopol and Black Sea Fleet sailors, on behalf of Russia and all Russians cordial greetings and good wishes. The eternal glory to the heroes who defended the freedom and independence of Sebastopol! says the telegram.

Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev also congratulated Sebastopol war veterans on the glorious occasion. During my recent visit to Sebastopol, says his message of greetings, I saw the strong spirit of the city residents, their respect for our history and I saw how strong is their belief that the city will be the main base for the Russian Black Sea Fleet.

Grachev Says Armed Forces 'Fit for War'

LD0905143594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] In their two years of existence, Russia's armed forces have "risen from their knees and are today completely fit for war," Russian Defense Minister General Pavel Grachev said.

"They can solve problems not only locally but on a wider scale too," he said in an interview with INTERFAX on Monday, after a traditional Victory Day ceremony of laying wreaths at Moscow's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

He said several new military districts and defense areas had been formed. One of them is the Kaliningrad Defense Area, where the Baltic Fleet commander is in charge of all locally stationed naval, land and air forces, which thus form a single powerful military unit, he said.

The North Caucasus Military District is also ready for combat, and, "by dividing the Volga-Ural Military District into two separate districts, we made forces deployed in that region more mobile," Grachev continued. "Apart from that, for the same purpose in many districts we replaced armies by brigades or corps. At the moment, the creation of mobile forces and the replacement of air defense forces with air and space defense forces is nearly over."

But forces structure in Russia's Far East has remained unchanged, the minister said. "After a close analysis of all life and service conditions of the armed forces in that region we came to the conclusion that we won't change anything. We'll most likely be able to take the final decision only after some exercises in the Far Eastern region. Then it'll be clear what system of armed forces we need in the Far East of Russia," he said.

Leading Figures Comment on WWII Victory

LD0905164394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1615 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Moscow May 9 TASS—Several dozen thousand Muscovites and guests from other cities and republics of the former Soviet Union gathered on Moscow's Poklonny Hill on Monday to pay tribute to the memory of Russia's soldiers who lost their lives defending freedom and peace in the World War Two.

The ceremony, which began with an inauguration of a new World War Two museum, was attended by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov and other high-ranking Russian officials.

Yeltsin made a speech and laid a wreath at the war memorial. He also met with war veterans to thank them for their heroism and wish them good health and prosperity.

In an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS on Monday, Yeltsin said that "all this can be considered as a whole: the present celebrations, the upcoming 50th anniversary of the victory and the signing of the memorandum on civic peace and accord. All this raises people's mood and, as a result, there is less and less animosity against each other."

"I assess what is going on now very highly," Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told ITAR-TASS. The signing of the memorandum and the preparations for the 50th anniversary of the victory over the Nazi aim at forging unity in the country. "We must work for unity, so that we had a normal country and could live a normal life," he said.

"Such great anniversary unites people," Yeltsin's chief of staff Sergey Filatov said. As never before Russia needs consensus. Today's festivities are in harmony with the memorandum of civic peace and accord, he continued. "People are beginning to calm down and to believe that we will be able to resolve this situation, avoiding civil conflicts," Filatov said.

"I believe that this is not an ordinary holiday, but a sign of a breakthrough in what is happening in Russia," Russian Vice-Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays said. He stressed that there cannot be economic breakthrough without a psychological and moral breakthroughs.

15,000 Opposition Supporters March in Moscow

LD0905125694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1120 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Over 15,000 attended the opposition march from the Belarusian Railway Terminal down Tverskaya Street in Moscow on May 9.

The column was headed by war veterans. Sazhi Umalatova, chairman of the so-called Permanent Presidium of the USSR Congress of People's Deputies, Oleg Shenin, chairman of the Council of Communist Parties-Communist Parties of the Soviet Union, and Ilya Konstantinov and Viktor Aksyuchits, National Salvation Front leaders, were with them in the first row.

Former vice-president Aleksandr Rutskoy. [sentence as received] He congratulated every veteran in the first row and headed the column with his bodyguards. The crowd shouted "Rutskoy for presidency."

Flags of the USSR, St. Andrew-crossed flags, flags of USSR Armed Force Services [as received] and portraits of Stalin were displayed in front of the column. One of the posters said: "Presidents carried out Hitler's plan to destroy the USSR."

There was not a single Russian flag but there were black-yellow-and-white flags of the Russian empire in the column.

A separate column of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation was headed by its leader Gennadiy Zyuganov accompanied by Anatoliy Lukyanov, member of the State Duma and former chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and Yuriy Voronin, former first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation.

Working Russia and the Russian Communist Workers' Party was led by their leader Viktor Anpilov. They shouted "Victory or death" and "Victory banner to the Kremlin".

Aleksandr Sterligov, leader of the Russian National Sobor (assembly) and Stanislav Terekhov, leader of the Officers Union took part in the march.

The monarchist League of the Russian People made up a separate column.

The police did not interfere.

Opposition Leaders Speak

LD0905143294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] According to Interfax estimates, taking part in the meeting organized Monday by opposition parties and movements at Lubyanka Square in Moscow which was devoted to the 40th anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War, were approximately 10,000 people.

Interfax correspondents believe that the problems of political struggle prevailed in statements over the subject of the Victory Day.

Former Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy called on those present to mark the 50th anniversary over fascist Germany by "the victory over the anti-popular regime which drew the country to the crisis. [quotation marks as received]

Viktor Anpilov, a leader of the Workers' Russia, called on those present to prepare for the presidential elections in 1996. He said that it was not enough to focus on one candidature. People has named quite a few worthy persons, Sazhi Umalatova and Vasiliy Starodubtsev, he said. Anpilov called to make a list of candidates from the opposition and hold primary elections. Let the people to choose their own candidate, he said.

He believes that a candidate from the opposition should decree the annulment of presidency, mayors and prefects. He should return to the people factories, lands and hard currency accounts in foreign banks now belonging to individuals. Anpilov believes that the restoration of Soviet power should be the first step.

Ilya Konstantinov, leader of the National Salvation Front, told those present that this year should be the last one for the Yeltsin regime. He said that those who are sitting in the Kremlin will not give up power voluntarily. Meetings alone are not enough, he said. He called on those present to start collecting a list of signatures for early presidential elections.

Police said the meeting passed without excesses. Speakers displayed their negative attitude to those who took part in the Yeltsin's celebrations on Poklonnaya Hill.

Rutskoy Attends Memorial Service

LD0905124194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1120 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Bishop of Istra Arseny, the patriarch's vicar, sanctified Monday morning a cross outside the White House in memory of those who died in the October 3 and 4, 1993 riots. The ceremony was attended by former vice-president Aleksandr Rutskoy, Constitutional Court Justice Valeriy Zorkin and National Salvation Front leader Ilya Konstantinov.

Rutskoy told journalists that the 55th [as received] anniversary of the victory would be celebrated in a quite different environment; the present police regime would no longer exist following a popular victory. He was certain that the victory would be bloodless.

According to Rutskoy, all Russia's residents had to work for making the country a great power and for unity if order was to be instilled in the country. He expressed the hope that neither in this nor in the next century the people would tolerate adventurers in power. Rutskoy was confident that the Soviet Union would be restored.

Following the sanctification Rutskoy laid a wreath to it.

No more than 50 people attended the ceremony.

Opposition Urges Early Presidential Elections

LD0905154794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1516 GMT 9 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[Text] Moscow May 9 TASS—The Russian opposition called for early presidential elections in Russia as it rallied in Moscow on Monday to celebrate V-Day.

The rally was led by former Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, Communist die-hard Sazhi Umalatova, Ilya Konstantinov and other members of the opposition. The demonstrators marched from the Byelorussky Railway Station in the northwest of the Russian capital to Manezh Square outside the Kremlin and then to Lubyanka Square near the former KGB headquarters.

Rutskoy called on the demonstrators to "meet the 50th anniversary of the victory over the Nazi by a victory over the present regime." He stressed that there is still enough time to understand "whether we want to go on living like this," referring to the disintegration of the Soviet empire.

Other speakers called on all opposition forces to unite in order to win the upcoming presidential elections.

Umalatova announced her decision to run for presidency, but at the same time recommended former Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov for the post of president.

Labour Russia leader Viktor Anpilov said that the opposition has got its own leaders, namely Umalatova and infamous Nina Andreyeva.

He urged his supporters to begin preparations for the presidential elections due to take place in 1996 and suggested compiling lists of candidates for preliminary voting. "Let the people themselves choose their candidate to the supreme state post," Anpilov said.

Konstantinov, leader of the National Salvation Front, stressed that "it is time to set up a single, well-organised opposition movement and set forth a clear-cut programme of action." He said "there is no confidence that the next presidential elections will take place in 1996 as planned."

Konstantinov said the opposition's immediate goal is to unite its forces and collect one million signatures required for holding a referendum on early presidential elections.

According to various reports, the rally gathered about 7,000 people. Among its organisers are the party Vozrozhdeniye (Revival), the standing presidium of the Congress of Soviet People's Deputies, the Labour Russia movement, the All-Russia People's Union and the Agrarian Party of Russia.

The Union of Army Officers led by Stanislav Terekhov also took part in the rally. The union's members and war veterans were expected to march to Manezh Square together with the opposition and then part with them to lay wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin Wall.

Yeltsin Signs Law on Federal Assembly Deputies

LD0905135894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1323 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Moscow, 9 May (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has signed the federal law on "The Status of a Deputy of the Federation Council and the Status of a Deputy of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation."

This document defines the rights, duties, and responsibilities of Federal Assembly deputies, and stipulates the main legal and social guarantees enabling them to do their work.

Yeltsin Edict Seeks To Control New Oil Companies

PM0905104994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 May 94 Single Edition p 5

[Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 845, signed by President Yeltsin and dated 29 April 1994: "On the Retention of State Ownership of Oil Company Shares"]

[Text] With a view to ensuring effective state control over the activities of the newly established oil companies, I decree that:

The Russian Federation Government shall stipulate during the establishment of the Siberia and Far East Oil Company and the Eastern Oil Company that federal ownership of 51 percent of these companies' shares shall be retained for three years.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

Moscow, the Kremlin

29 April 1994

No. 845

Yeltsin Signs Edict on Utilization of Foreign Labor

PM0905093994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 May 94 Single Edition p 5

[Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 847, signed by President Yeltsin and dated 29 April 1994: "On Additional Measures To Streamline the Recruitment and Utilization of Foreign Labor in the Russian Federation"]

[Text] With a view to streamlining the recruitment and utilization of foreign labor in the Russian Federation and to ensuring that Russian Federation citizens take priority in filling vacancies, I decree that:

1. Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 2146 of 16 December 1993 "On the Recruitment and Utilization of Foreign Labor in the Russian Federation" (SOBRANIYE AKTOV PREZIDENTA I PRAVITELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, No. 51, 1993, p 4934) be extended to cover foreign corporate bodies implementing contracts on Russian Federation territory, with the exception of foreign corporate bodies which have seconded their workers to the Russian Federation to install (or to supervise the installation of) equipment they have supplied.

2. This edict comes into force from the moment it is published.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation

Moscow, the Kremlin

29 April 1994

No. 847

Khimki Head Denies Claims Over Deputy's Murder

PM0905143194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 7 May 94 p 8

[Vladimir Chuprin report under the "Details" rubric: "Version 10 of the State Duma Deputy's Murder: Yuriy Korablin, Khimki Administration Head, Puts His Own Questions to the Competent Organs"]

[Text] The business relations between Andrey Ayzderdzis, the deceased State Duma deputy, and Yuriy Korablin, head of the administration of the city of Khimki, were highly strained. That is what many of the mass media have been claiming since Ayzderdzis' tragic murder 26 April.

Among other things, Ayzderdzis was Korablin's rival in the State Duma elections, and the administration head could not forgive the defeat inflicted on him by his opponent: He did not allocate him official premises for receiving voters and tried to install his own people at the MDK-Bank, which A. Ayzderdzis directed prior to his election to parliament.

It has been alleged, either implicity or openly, that Korablin had an interest in the death of the people's deputy.

Yesterday the head of the Khimki administration broke the "vow of silence which he had given until the body of the deceased is committed to the earth." He held a press conference. He announced that "someone stands to gain from fueling political passions in the region and from making unfounded criminal accusations against totally innocent people." He claimed that the uproar against him in the newspapers was started six months ago—while Andrey Ayzderdzis was still alive.

"It is being claimed in the press that the MDK-Bank is a financially impeccable firm and that I set up my own bank in the city and did not want any rivals. However, I have not set up any commercial structures, just as I did not run for the Federal Assembly. In Moscow Oblast there are forces which want to destabilize the situation in the region."

Yu. Korablin believes that the oblast regional administration to combat organized crime and its Chief Major General A. Kartashev personally are forces of that kind.

"Everything that is being written about me in the newspapers today coincides word for word with the content of a report compiled by that department 24 January this year," he said. "Since that time I and my deputies have been tailed and had our telephones bugged. At that time three staffers of the directorate had close contacts with Ayzderdzis and visited the MDK-Bank almost all the time. Kartashev is deliberately misleading the investigation."

Yu. Korablin calls this the 10th plausible version of the killing—the first nine, the head of the administration said, were described in DAILY-KOMMERSANT [as published]. Nor does he discount the possibility that the tragedy might have been the result of personal "feuds" among people involved in commerce. He stated that the MDK-Bank concealed 1.160 billion rubles from taxation last year—there is a report from the tax inspectorate to that effect. In addition, Yu. Korablin said, summing up, "a criminal group whose head was recently murdered while in prison had become involved in the bank's affairs."

The mayor of Khimki stated that the city authorities are organizing an independent investigation into the deputy's murder and have already offered 15 million rubles as reward for information of help to the investigation.

National Socialist Party Founded in Novosibirsk

LD0805165594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] The National Socialist Party of Russia held its founding conference in Novosibirsk. This was initiated by the local branch of the movement called Russian National Unity. As Interfax learned from its leader, Yuriy Garov, the National Socialist Party intends to work to improve the political and economic situation in Russia.

According to Garov, unlike Zhirinovskiy and Zyuganov, the national socialists can stabilize the country's economy in a year, "by using the 1933 experience of German national socialists aimed at improving the nation's genetic fund."

As Garov said, in its political program his party intends to demand that early presidential elections be held and that the government and other executive authorities resign.

However, Garov pointed out, the resignation of government and president must not be gained with the help of terrorist acts. When asked by Interfax's correspondent about the participation of Aleksandr Barkashov in the work of the founding conference, Garov said that the leader of Russian National Unity had failed to come to Novosibirsk because he was ill, and because his movement did not want to put his life at risk.

According to preliminary information, representatives from 14 Russian cities attended the conference.

Counterintelligence Service Catches Arms Smugglers

LD0605165394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1315 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] In interaction with the Moscow Main Interior Department employees of the Federal Counterintelligence Service's [FCIS] Moscow and Moscow Region Department have detained a 10-strong group of people who were shipping contraband cargos of small guns from Estonia to Russia. The FCIS' Public Relations Center reported to Interfax that as many as 24 units of combat arms, TT pistols, Taurus-22, Luger-22, 390 small shot guns, 400 gas pistols, ammunitions, and 200,000 dollars were confiscated from the smugglers. An investigation is underway.

Smuggled Weapons Seized at Moscow Airport

LD1005114394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1016 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Members of the state customs committee of Russia uncovered a batch of illegal weapons on board an airliner on a flight from Tbilisi after it landed at Moscow's Vnukovo airport on Saturday, officials of the anti-narcotics department told Interfax..

A bag containing three AKM automatic guns and six rounds of ammunition was found in the first section of the Tupolev-154 aircraft after the passengers had deboarded.

A Russian-made sniper rifle complete with optical targeting and 28 cartridges as well as two pistols were uncovered in other bag held in the cargo bay. There was no tag on it.

Prosecuting officers will handle the case after police investigations have ended

Police officials say it will be hard to establish the identity of the arms smugglers because passengers on a flight from Tbilisi usually take seats as they please.

Court Case Against '91 Coupists Abandoned

LD1005120294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1110 GMT 10 May 94

[By correspondent ITAR-TASS Yuriy Shcherban]

[Text] Moscow, 10 May—The SCSE [State Committee for the State of Emergency] court case has finally been abandoned. ITAR-TASS learned today at the press service of the military collegium of the Russian Federation Supreme Court that Judge Viktor Yaskin has closed this criminal case. It has not been closed only in the case of Valentin Varennikov, who has refused the amnesty announced by the State Duma.

The SCSE case has initially been dropped in connection with the amnesty, however this decision was later contested by the office of the Procurator General on the basis that any criminal case must proceed to the end.

The appeal was accepted by the collegium of the Supreme court and the SCSE case was sent back for a new trial. However, in this instance it did not come under the same article of the criminal code, on the basis of which the procuracy had launched its protest.

Therefore, having studied the SCSE case, Judge Yaskin has stopped the proceedings.

Although this decision does not involve Varennikov, it is not yet clear whether he will have to stand trial. At any rate, the military collegium of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation has not taken any decision yet with regard to this matter.

Economic Issues

Nonstate Banks' Potential in Economy Viewed

PM1005092594 Moscow TRUD in Russian 7 May 94 p 8

[Interview with State Duma agrarian faction member A. Popov by Yuriy Strukov; place and date of interview not given: "Andrey Popov: 'Will Bankers Begin Sowing?'"]

[Text] Accusations against commercial banks have already become traditional. Inflation, the crisis of nonpayments, delays in the issue of wages, merging with the criminal world—that is a far from full list of the sins ascribed to nonstate banks. Moreover, many specialists in macroeconomics believe that commercial banks, controlling up to 70 percent of the country's financial resources, are releasing them mainly for "short-term" trade and middleman credits while industry and the agricultural sector are expiring without long-term investments. The most unpleasant thing is perhaps that in many cases these descriptions of the banks are justified. What state laws and actions can be used today to direct the banks' activity into the channel of social harmony, to ensure that their revenue goes not only toward improving the prosperity of commercial bankers but also toward benefiting society? This is considered by A. Popov, a member of the State Duma agrarian faction, in a talk with our correspondent.

[Popov] First of all let us describe the current situation in the banking world. Over the five years since the first bank was registered over 2,000 of these financial institutions have appeared in Russia. Each bank has occupied its own market niche. One group finances "short-term" trade and middleman operations, obtaining superprofits. As a rule these are small "fly-by-night" banks whose characteristic feature is the payment of quite high dividends. These banks' money is constantly in circulation so no effective investment return should be counted on here.

Another group is far smaller numerically but it is represented by well known banks with a substantial incorporation capital. Here the interest rate on deposits is incomparably lower, which is understandable: The money has been invested in major projects and will not produce a rapid return. It is on these banks that we should count in planning investments.

[Strukov] There is just one thing I cannot understand: Why do your "respectable" banks give themselves an unnecessary headache over long-term expenses when it is possible to effect an excellent money "turnover" through trade....

[Popov] The point is that a number of nonstate banks has reached such a level of stability and concentration of financial resources that it is simply not to their advantage to run risks by investing money in rather unpredictable trade operations: If they do not collapse they may still substantially damage their reputation. And reliability is strengthened only by joint ownership, through investments, of industrial, agricultural, and civilian real estate into which bankers will naturally put progressive technologies.

[Strukov] But somehow the banks' desire to invest in plants and state farms is so far going unnoticed....

[Popov] I disagree. This process is developing. Whereas last year of 13.5 trillion rubles surplus in bank accounts just 0.5 trillion went in investments, this year the latter indicator increased to 3-3.5 trillion. But in one thing you are right: So far the state and its legislative organs are giving only feeble encouragement to this trend.

For instance, everyone knows of the very grave situation in the agrarian sector. God grant that we can pay off the state's "Gaydar" debts not to mention long-term expenses. Some large banks have proposed to the top organs of executive power that they invest in the countryside. For instance, the following scheme has been proposed: We invest half the resources for a specific program under a Ministry of Finances guarantee, the state pays for the other half. A sensible approach, in my view. On the one hand the commercial banks are not yet so wealthy that they can take on all concerns for the countryside. On the other, it is possible to halve the "agricultural" burden of the state budget with its deficit and to lend impetus to the countryside's development.

There is a similar situation in industry. But the government and the Ministry of Agriculture seem not to notice this initiative on the banks' part. I stress, they are not rejecting it but nor are they supporting it. It remains for us to pin our hopes on the federal assembly....

[Strukov] Perhaps this position on the part of the executive power can be explained by the information on the allegedly planned introduction of a state of emergency in the economy. Many experts are inclined to believe that this is borne out by the recent Central Bank decision to raise the minimum incorporation capital for commercial banks to 2 billion rubles....

[Popov] This measure on the Central Bank's part is in my opinion fully justified. There should be some kind of limitation on the dissipation of financial resources. A bank is a solid institution. The previous minimum incorporation capital—100 million rubles—considering inflation can no longer ensure the reliability of a particular bank. Furthermore, as I have already said, small banks are most vulnerable to criminal structures.

As for the state of emergency, I think our economy has long been working in this state. If someone has only noted this now, then I do not think there are grounds for global conclusions.

Radicalism in Agriculture 'Unacceptable'

LD1005100894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0929 GMT 10 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Filatov]

[Text] Moscow May 10 TASS—Russian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha is sharply opposed to the reported "plans to decollectivize" the Russian agriculture which, in his opinion, may produce "unpredictable social consequences".

Interviewed by ITAR-TASS, Zaveryukha described these proposals as a "rash" and blamed the radical democratic circles for them.

"Radicalism is unacceptable in agriculture. The land reform will yield fruit only if it develops in an evolutionary way," Zaveryukha said, adding that "some radical democrats dislike it". The vice- premier did not explain whom he meant.

Plans to decollectivize agriculture before the spring sowing campaign could be advanced only by "a man, who is poorly versed in agricultural production in our country, and who has no idea about developments in other countries," the vice-premier stressed.

Moreover, Zaveryukha noted that the overwhelming majority of Russian collective and state farms had already changed their form of property. He said that more than 90 per cent of such husbandries have already been turned into joint-stock societies.

"They are no longer collective and state farms, but associations of free commodity producers with their own land plots and shares. They are already owners. And nobody has any right to tell them how to work and what form of management to choose," Zaveryukha stressed.

Military & Space Issues

Mir Cosmonauts Undergo Medical Checks

LD1005093694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0903 GMT 10 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Mission Control Centre May 10 TASS—The crew of the Russian space complex "Mir" is undergoing medical checks today. The commander and the flight engineer's cardio-vascular system is being checked with the help of a "chibis" pneumo-vacuum spacesuit imitating earth's gravitation. Doctor Valeriy Polyakov will carry out the experiment "sport" for determining optimum physical training sessions during prolonged space flights.

The cosmonauts photographed Russian central and southern regions this morning, in accordance with the earth's natural resources programme, using the "Priroda-5" photography complex. The space crew conducted geophysical and astrophysical studies and technical experiments on May 7 and 8.

The flight of the "Mir" space complex is going on according to schedule.

Another Russian Pacific Fleet Officer Murdered

LD1005055294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0540 GMT 10 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Grachev]

[Text] Vladivostok May 10 TASS—Another Russian Pacific Fleet officer was murdered by several gunshots fired into his back near the entrance to his house.

According to the Pacific Fleet Navy press service reports, the victim was returning home after patrolling city streets on Monday night, when he was suddenly attacked by two unidentified persons. The officer had his service revolver on his person, but he could notv use it. The bandits took away his pistol and documents and disappeared.

Lately there have been quite frequent attacks on army officers in the maritime territory, mainly with the aim of robbing them of their service arms. Major Tedeyev, who was on guard duty in his unit, was attacked by two unidentified persons two weeks ago. After murdering him, the bandits ran away with two pistols and cartridges.

The Vladivostok police department and the military prosecutor's office are investigating the case.

Regional Affairs

Former USSR Republics Observe Victory Day

LD0905133394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1130 GMT 9 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev May 9 TASS—"None of my numerous relatives returned from the front. The grave of my father was found quite recently. He died during the liberation of the fraternal Belarussian [Belarusian] nation," Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said, addressing war veterans who came today to the Eternal Glory Park to commemorate those killed during the war against Nazi invaders. "There is not a family in Ukraine, the same as in all the former USSR republics, which has not been affected by the war," he continued.

The Ukrainian president and other officials laid flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The ceremony was attended by government members, people's deputies, heads of diplomatic missions accredited in Kiev, representatives of political parties and movements.

Tashkent May 9 TASS—By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vilor Niyazmatov:

Uzbekistan, which has a population of 22 million and some 100 nationalities, is celebrating the Victory Day today.

Every family in the republic was affected by the war in this or that way. About one million residents of the republic went to the front, and 600,000 of them never returned home. Some 300,000 were decorated with orders and medals for their feats of arms, and 280 of them became heroes of the Soviet Union.

Uzbek President Islam Karimov and other officials laid wreaths today at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the eternal flame in the Independence Square. After that Karimov and other republican leaders went to the Monument to the Mournful Mother. It is part of the memorial complex with graves of soldiers from numerous cities and villages of the former USSR, who died at Tashkent hospitals during the War.

Kishinev [Chisinau] May 9 TASS—By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy:

The Victory Day coincided this year with the day of commemorating the dead. Before going to cemeteries to visit the graves of their relatives, thousands of people came today to the Memorial of Glory in order to honour the memory of soldiers, killed in the struggle against Nazism.

A ceremony of laying wreaths was held at the memorial in the morning. Under the accompaniment of the funeral march, wreaths and flowers were laid at the eternal flame and soldiers' graves by President Mircea Snegur, Chairman of Parliament Petr Luchinskiy, Prime Minister Andrey Angeli, representatives of foreign diplomatic missions and public organisations. Flowers were also laid at the stone where a monument would be built to all those killed during the armed conflict in the Dniester region.

The Victory Day was celebrated today in all the cities and villages of Moldavia.

Riga May 9 TASS—A ceremony was held today at the Monument to Liberator Soldiers on the occasion of the Victory Day. It is the last time it was attended by representatives of the command of the North-Western Russian Army Group. In accordance with the Russian- Latvian agreements signed recently, Russian troops will be withdrawn from Latvia before August 31, this year.

War veterans, members of the Socialist Party of Latvia, of the Association of Russians and other public organisations observed the day of victory over the Nazi Germany in Riga, Liepae [Liepaja], Daugavpiels [Daugavpils] and other cities. However, official representatives of Latvian authorities did not take part in the celebrations.

After the proclamation of independence in Latvia, the Victory Day ceased to be an official holiday there. This year it is the third time that May 9 is an ordinary working day.

Sevastopol May 9 TASS—"The Crimea is open to all," Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov said today, addressing participants in the celebration of the Victory Day in Sevastopol. "Today, in this sunny day, I congratulate you all on the occasion of the victory of our people and express heartfelt gratitude to all heroes of the Great Patriotic War irrespecting of whether they wore a uniform or not. Hail to our fathers, our mothers, all those who survived those times."

Dushanbe May 9 TASS—By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva:

The Victory Day is being observed in a most festive way in Tajikistan. The decree of the Supreme Soviet proclaimed it to be a holiday. A mourning meeting, held today at the Victory Park of Dushanbe, became the feature event of the ceremony. Numerous participants in the rally were addressed by Tajik leader Emomali Rakhmonov and other

senior officials of the republic, heads of embassies and diplomatic missions, high-ranking officers, officials from the republican Defence Ministry and peace-keeping troops, as well as war veterans. The Victory Day is being celebrated in all the cities of the republic.

Bishkek May 9 TASS—By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev:

The Victory Day began here today in the Victory Square with a trumpet call, which signalled the beginning of a mourning meeting, devoted to the 49th anniversary of the victory over Nazism. Bishkek residents, Kyrgyz leaders, members of parliament, senior officials gathered at the monument to the motherland. President Askar Akayev laid flowers at the monument.

Alma Ata [Almaty] May 9 TASS—By KAZTAG correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko—TASS:

President Nursultan Nazarbayev laid flowers at the memorial complex in one of the Alma Ata parks to mark the 49th anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War. Thousands of war veterans and residents of the city came there to honour the memory of those killed at the front.

"This date will always be observed by residents of Kazakhstan and of all the former USSR republics, because the victory was one for all," Nazarbayev said. "Unlike the territory, finances, economies, it cannot be divided. The victory was won by joint efforts of Russians, Kazakhs, Ukrainians, Belarussians, people of other nationalities, who shared both the grief over their losses and confidence in the eventual defeat of Nazism."

A salute will be fired in the Kazakh capital today.

Kozyrev Attends 20,000-Strong Rally in Murmansk

LD0905202494 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1940 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] The main thing is to not forget our history, all that is good and kind that was done and achieved in the past. Under the red banners of the former Soviet Union great heroic deeds were performed during the war. It is under these banners that fascism was defeated, and it is under these banners that Europe and the world were saved from the horror of fascism, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated. Today in Murmansk he spoke at a 20,000-strong festive rally devoted to the 49th anniversary of the Victory Day.

Donetsk Militia Forestalls Terrorist Action

OW1005043294 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT 9 May 94

[Gennadiy Kondaurov video report; from the "Utro" program]

[Text] Last night many people in Donetsk were awakened by a powerful explosion. It occurred near Ilicha Avenue, one of the city's central thoroughfares. The Donetsk Internal Affairs Administration later disarmed an installation made of five antitank grenade launchers assembled on a truck and prepared for launching. The previous evening in an alley near the Donetsk wine plant, some boys came across an old abandoned GAZ-51 with a cover over its bed. The network of wires on it looked suspicious, so they called the militia. The militia arrived immediately and established that the grenade launchers were aimed at a residential building located 300 meters away. The installation was rigged with imported automatic instruments and remote-controlled devices permitting it to be operated from a distance of 150 meters. [video shows broken windows, militia officers inspecting launch tubes and truck, then shows interview with V.N. Varaka, chief of the Donetsk Internal Affairs Administration]

[Begin Varaka recording] Yes, one can now positively say a terrorist act was being prepared in Donetsk. [end recording]

'Soviet Power' Set To Return in Mordovia

PM0905102394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 May 94 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Kislov: "Soviet Power in Mordovia Advances Against Russian President's Positions"]

[Text] Republic of Mordovia—IZVESTIYA has already reported the decision by the Mordovian Supreme Soviet Presidium to restore soviet power in city and rayons. President Yeltsin has directed that the republic's legal acts be verified for conformity to the Russian Constitution. The ink was not yet dry on the directive when Mordovian parliamentarians dealt yet another blow to the prestige of the head of state by deciding to abolish the post of his representative in the republic.

Having put a stranglehold on the Council of Ministers, whose chairman, Valeriy Shvetsov, was hospitalized following a heart attack, the deputies set about the president's representative, Prof. Valentin Konakov. An authoritative man in the republic, he occupies a firmly reformist stance and is erecting substantial obstacles to the implementation of the idea of full power for the soviets. At a closed sitting of the Supreme Soviet Presidium the deputies decided to propose that President Yeltsin abolish the institution of his representative in the republic.

Probably not hopeful that the head of state would look kindly on their demarche, they decided to take a shortcut and try to remove V. Konakov.

A report, framed in black, appeared in the prosoviet paper MORDOVIYA about a recent meeting between Nikolay Biryukov, chairman of the Mordovian Supreme Soviet, and Boris Yeltsin. It talks of the warm reception accorded to the Mordovian speaker by the president. During the conversation Biryukov apparently asked the president what kind of state system he had in mind for Mordovia—parliamentary or presidential? To which Yeltsin allegedly replied that it was a matter for the republic itself. The speaker then raised the question of the removal of V. Konakov from his post, describing him as a man who had

fallen out with the representative and executive authorities in Mordovia. The president apparently reacted by saying: "We can do without representatives like that."

Knowing the predilection of the speaker and his newspaper for wishful thinking, people in the republic doubt whether the report is authentic. But it is bound to cause serious concern. If the president does "abandon" Konakov the proccess of restoring the old order in Mordovia will be complete.

Police, Khimki Mayor Trade Charges on Deputy's Murder

PM0905115794 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 7 May 94 p 4

[Vladimir Zaynetdinov and Sergey Sergiyenko report: "It Turns Out That the Moscow Militia Has One Concern—To Tail the Mayor of Khimki"]

[Text] The assassination of State Duma Deputy Andrey Ayzderdzis, which happened in the evening of 26 April this year in the Moscow suburb of Khimki, is continuing to agitate the public. A joint investigating group from the General Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Federal Counterintelligence Service is working in the city. All the available manpower and resources have been brought into operation. Major General Vladimir Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs Criminal Investigation Main Directorate, has practically "moved" his office to Khimki.

However, it seems that everything is already obvious to the Khimki administration. That, at least, was the claim that was laid on thick at a news conference that was held.

Notably, Khimki chief Yuriy Korablin stated that KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA has put out a number of exclusively ordered (that is, generously paid for, evidently) materials indirectly accusing Yuriy Vadimovich and his assistants of involvement in the assassination.

The versions published in KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA are based on documents obtained from state structures. The chief's unfounded accusations against the editorial office are good reason for a meeting in court. And not only for journalists.

As Korablin stated, the Regional Administration for Organized Crime [RAOC] under the Moscow Oblast Internal Affairs Main Administration is directly related to the assassination! Specifically, he means Major General Aleksandr Kartashov, who heads the RAOC.

"We have been reliably informed that Mr. Kartashov is today doing all he can to lead the investigation in another direction.... Is this deliberate or unintentional? Either it testifies to a low professional standard, or else it testifies to a personal interest...."

If the head of the Khimki administration is to be belived, the only thing the RAOC is doing is "shepherding" Korablin about day and night. "Four vehicles and eight staffers are following me around full time, which gives you a very unpleasant sensation." The RAOC commented on this information as follows: "One section is involved in external observation, and it only has three clapped-out little Zhigulis."

No Plans To Exploit Oil Field Near Kaliningrad

LD0505184994 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1600 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] The following report was received by the ELTA agency from the Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Lithuania:

The administration of the Russian Federation Kaliningrad region announces that it has no intention to exploit the oil field that is in the Baltic Sea in the (?vicinity) of the town of Nida.

Exploration work that had been carried out by the production association Kaliningrad Sea Oil and Gas was aimed at monitoring the above oil field and environmental protection. The platforms in this area used for exploration are now being moved to near Kaliningrad.

Questions Over Phasing Out Plutonium-Producing AES

PM0905124094 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 May 94 p 3

[Aleksandr Chernykh report: "Reactors To Be Peaceful"]

[Text] Tomsk—Of the five nuclear reactors at the Siberian Chemical Combine in the city of Seversk (Tomsk-7) only two are currently operational. They are continuing to produce weapons-grade plutonium while simultaneously providing heat and power for the oblast center. Shutting down the reactors would have catastrophic consequences for the economy and everyday life in the oblast....

A Russian Government delegation headed by V. Mikhaylov, minister of atomic energy, recently visited Washington. Along with foreign specialists it elaborated a plan for shutting down reactors producing weapons-grade plutonium once alternative sources of power and heat supply have begun to function. In this connection an intergovernmental agreement will be signed on ending the military use of plutonium produced after the conclusion of the agreement.

Russia proposes modifying reactors to enable them to be switched to a purely peaceful power generating system. Agreements are all very well, but what is the alternative? For Tomsk it could be four power stations burning natural gas. In Seversk it is planned to modernize the heat and electric power station, shutting down the gas turbines. I. Petukhov, deputy chief engineer of the Siberian Chemical Combine, believes that there are still plenty of weaknesses in the plan. It will cost $250 million to bring four gas-turbine stations on stream for the oblast center. Another $120 million will be needed to increase the gas pipelines' capacity. And it will cost $25 million to reequip the assembly shop at the plant which would be producing the gas turbines.

Where will these millions come from? The U.S. side has been quite cautious about the possible economic support. Russia has been left to rely primarily on its own resources. Consequently, the expenditure will increase, as will the time taken to implement the plan. That is what people in the nuclear sector think. As a more purposeful idea they are proposing the construction of a nuclear-powered heat and electric power station, which will be comparable in terms of cost, but will have the edge environmentally.

Spiridonov Reported Elected Head of Komi Republic

LD0905153094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] An ITAR-TASS correspondent reports from Syktyvkar that—according to preliminary, strictly unofficial, reports—Yuriy Spiridonov, current chairman of the Komi parliament, has been elected head of the Komi Republic following yesterday's election. An official decision on the results of the elections will be made on 11 May.

Chelyabinsk, Chechnya Local Elections Eyed

PM1005102594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 May 94 p 4

[Rustam Arifdzhanov article: "Zero Hour. Senators Will Finally Be Elected in Chelyabinsk. Chechnya Not in a Hurry at Present"]

[Text] Elections in Chelyabinsk have been scheduled for 15 May. In Chechnya they are unlikely to be held in the next few months. But one way or another, four seats are empty in the upper chamber of the Russian parliament. The time has come for the last amendments to the composition of senators to be made—zero hour.

The Chechen Republic was not even intending to send its representatives either to the Duma or to the senate. The declared independence of the mountain republic simply bound Dzhokhar Dudayev to ignore the December elections. But we will talk about Chechnya a bit later.

Things are more interesting in Chelyabinsk. Here deputies were elected to the Duma, but there were no elections to the Federation Council. "We did not manage to prepare ourselves"—that was the argument of Oblast Administration Head Vadim Solovyev. A short trip to Chelyabinsk convinced us they have not actually managed to prepare themselves even now, in May. Well, the sharp Urals voters are not prepared to elect a governor to the senate. However, perceiving this, Solovyev, unlike many other Russian regional leaders, did not put forward his candidacy. Furthermore, he did not particularly want to elect senators in the spring anyway (maybe that was the reason?). But come fall....

By and large, things are clear. The head of the Chelyabinsk administration is already involved in a protracted and fairly acute conflict with the State Duma five elected by the Chelyabinsk voters. Naturally he did not want to add to this the presumably complex relations with representatives of the oblast who will be elected to the Federation Council—and this is the chamber of parliament that the regions will consider to be the most important. Solovyev is inwardly not prepared for this. And therefore, he believed, neither was the whole oblast.

Nevertheless, the Chelyabinsk inhabitants will elect the two most worthy candidates of 13. Of course, the ordinary inhabitant of Chelyabinsk, Magnitogorsk, or Miass, let alone a villager from the outlying Bashkir or Tatar districts, will not know all of them by name. The following names often come up: Magnitka Director Anatoliy Starikov; businessman Mikhail Isayev (in Chelyabinsk, as in the whole of Russia, a new "Russian roulette" has become fashionable—putting money into investment funds); unemployed Andrey Belishko—the Chelyabinsk "Yeltsin," a former first deputy head of administration whom four attempts were made to dismiss, and who was only removed from his post thanks to the reorganization of the apparatus. People also know Prosecutor Gennadiy Likhachev. In troubled times the people's hopes are pinned on the prosecutor—he of all people will expose all the troublemakers.

The latest preliminary research by Chelyabinsk sociologists theoretically confirms my observations. The Magnitka director may be getting perceptibly ahead of all the others, while sociologists are adding another businessmen to the list of the aforementioned, with the comment "strange as it may seem"—Andrey Sviridonov, whom rumor is ironically glorifying as an "obkom" [communist party oblast committee] man.

The list of candidates does however contain names which are known not just to Chelyabinsk inhabitants. At the very last moment, about 10 minutes before the expiry of the registration deadline, General Valentin Varennikov of the State Committee for the State of Emergency unexpectedly put forward his candidacy, evidently counting on the support of carefully voting veterans and the personnel of military units scattered around the oblast. In any case, he managed to gather the necessary signatures for registration even without an extensive publicity campaign. Another Muscovite, now almost forgotten in the capital—Conservative Party Chairman Lev Ubozhko—is preparing to have another go here in the southern Urals.

However, the success of "Women of Russia" at the Duma elections is making the candidacy of Galina Zheltikova, acting chairman of the oblast committee for the management of state property, and the only woman among the candidates, very serious. Many women of Chelyabinsk, incidentally, are indeed intending to vote for Galina. It seems that they may persuade their men, some of whom have been spending time with the family increasingly frequently recently. There is simply nothing to do at work. The local defense industry has launched a shorter working week—people are working three or four days a week for three or four hours a day. The Chelyabinsk tractor plant is standing idle, chock full of unwanted output. An improbable thing has happened at Magnitka—the blast furnaces have not been put out, they are being heated up, but no

steel is being smelted. I think that there is no need to explain what that is about. Continuous losses.

Nevertheless Magnitka feels more sorry for its director than indignant. And anyway, if Magnitka does vote, it will vote specifically for him, if only to spite Chelyabinsk. The rivalry between the two major southern Urals cities is just as great as the traditional rivalry between Moscow and St. Petersburg.

However, regardless of where a candidate may come from, what position he may occupy, and whose interests he may reflect, they are all similar in one regard. No one has a clear-cut program in the event of victory. Everyone has simple slogans and they are all one sentence long. And, if you reflect on it, everyone has the same sentence: "Vote for me and things will be good." What do you mean good, why, by means of what? Deputies are usually accused that, once they have received the long-awaited mandate, they forget practically all their promises. It will not be possible to accuse the Chelyabinsk deputies of this. They are not promising anything. At least nothing specific. There is a hope that on the last day before the elections the candidates will let the voters know of their programs. If they exist, of course.

The Chelyabinsk elections will surprise many people with their originality. The election campaign has been conducted as if unwillingly. It has reached the point that, on the actual eve of the election, the chairman of the oblast electoral commission has been removed from his post with the remarkable formula "for self-removal from work." His deputy was assigned the task of the elections. And an astonishing "South African" version of conducting elections came into being.

Evidently, having deemed the competence of the Chelyabinsk voters equal to the education of the representatives of the famous Zulu and Bantu tribes, people here are planning to conduct the elections over several days. Until the people get into the swing of things. They will begin them straight after the May holidays, and perhaps the necessary number of votes will be gathered by the 15th. The slow elections, including a pause, seem to correspond to the national character more.

People in the know have attributed this strange system of conducting elections to the frank fear of making a fool of yourself once again. Because if Chelyabinsk does not elect any senators this time either, then the decisions Moscow makes about the validity of the local political leadership may be very varied. Excuses to the effect that our people are like this, they are distinctive, will scarcely be taken into consideration.

Chechnya is also talking about distinctiveness. The economic situation of this republic, which has declared itself independent, is more difficult than that of the Urals. Plants here have been standing idle for a long time. Money earned outside Chechnya is turning into stylish automobiles of Chechen businessmen coming here from the rest of Russia and Turkey and a growth in the weaponry of detachments loyal to Dzhokhayev or his rival Yaragi Mamadayev. Meanwhile, ordinary people are finding it difficult to make ends meet, and this means Russian workers just as it does Chechen peasants. The Dudayev administration, which is worried that the opposition has started to brainwash Moscow offices, has been forced to hint that it too is prepared to reach agreement with Russia. But even if it does prove possible to reach agreement on relations like Tatarstan did, then elections to the Russian parliament are scarcely possible in the near future. No matter what kind of ethnic hue may be applied here, and Mamadayev, for example, stressing the specific features of the republic, is thinking about the need to create a special organ which would include one representative from each Chechen clan; people here do not want elections and are afraid of them.

Both Dzhokhayev and Mamadayev have nevertheless not answered the question: What has happened to the money earned from the sale of oil products abroad by the government which they both headed? The first as president and the second as vice premier. And whether they like it or not, they would have to come up with an answer at an election.

Moscow is evidently not really insisting on the elections either. There is a probability that the Chechen voter, disillusioned with both Dudayev and the opposition, will vote for the famous fellow countryman who distanced himself from the all-Russian political arena to Groznyy. Even if Ruslan Khasbulatov has lost his influence in Moscow, he is nevertheless very undesirable as a deputy in the State Duma and all the more so on the list of senators. And so the "zero hour" of the elections that is frightening politicians in the center and in the localities is moving aside.

Chelyabinsk and Chechnya are not simply standing next to each other in the alphabetic list of Russian components of the Federation. Finding themselves by chance in the same bunch of territories not participating in the work of the Federation Council, they alone have united in the nondesire or not very great desire of the local leaders to participate in this work. Dudayev is worried that, if he decides to do so, he will lose his main trump card—the image of fighter for independence. Chelyabinsk Governor Solovyev is worried that if as a result of the elections he gets the wrong people in the senate, it will be fairly difficult to run the oblast and govern it. So what is happening is that in one case there are no elections and there will not be any. In the other case they are kind of being conducted, but without much enthusiasm. Little Asian intricacies.

Incidentally, the border between Europe and Asia runs through the territory of Chelyabinsk Oblast and along the Caucasus mountain range. It does indeed.

Ammonia, Arsenic Found in Novosibirsk Reservoir

LD1005062294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0607 GMT 10 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valentin Pavlov]

[Text] Barnaul May 10 TASS—The Novosibirsk water reservoire is threatened with arsenic and ammonia poisoning. A 30-cm-thick layer of foam, containing a high concentratiion of arsenic and ammonia has passed the Altay and is flowing now towards Novosibirsk.

The poisoned stream is reported to be in the vicinity of the village of Shelabolikh on the border of the Novosibirsk region at the moment. Until now no poisoning cases have been reported, though there is a great danger of the contaminated water entering into the city water pipeline network.

Decree on Supporting Buryatia's Economy

PM1005104694 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 May 94 Single Edition p 5

[Decree no. 412 of the Government of the Russian Federation signed by V. Chernomyrdin, Chairman of the Russian Federation Government, on 28 April 1994 in Moscow: "On the Main Measures of State Support for the Economy of the Republic of Buryatia in 1994-1995"]

[Text] To ensure in 1994-1995 the necessary state support for priority programs in the structural reorganization of the most important sectors of production, the strengthening of measures for the population's social protection, and also taking into account the extremely difficult situation which has developed in the economy of the Republic of Buryatia as a result of natural disasters, the Government of the Russian Federation **resolves**:

1. The Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Federation Finance Ministry, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy are to ensure in 1994-1995 the financing of power industry facilities of the Republic of Buryatia in accordance with decree no. 389 of the Russian Federation Government of 9 June 1992 "On measures to stabilize the situation in the fuel and energy complex of the Far East and East Siberia in 1992 and the period to 1995."

2. The Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy, with the participation of the Russian Power and Electrification Joint-Stock Company (RAO "YeES Rossii") are to provide finance as of 1994 for the construction of the Ulan-Ude No. 2 Thermal Electric Power Station using investment credit resources and the power and electrification investment fund.

3. The Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, and the Russian Federation State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry are to examine as a priority conversion programs for defense industry enterprises located in the Republic of Buryatia and to present to the Russian Federation Government proposals on the allocation to those enterprises of centralized credit resources in amounts sufficient to ensure the fulfillment of the aforementioned programs and also to provide for the allocation to them of centralized capital investments and appropriations for their financing [assignovaniya na ikh finansirovaniye] for the completion of the construction of facilities in the social sphere.

4. The Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy and the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance are to envisage in 1994 the allocation to the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture and Food of centralized capital investments and appropriations for their financing for the construction of agro-indusrial complex facilities in the Republic of Buryatia based on the federal targeted programs that have been adopted.

5. The Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy and the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance are to envisage the allocation to the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Buryatia in 1994-1995 of centralized capital investments and appropriations for their financing for the construction of a general pediatric hospital and a Russian drama theater in Ulan-Ude, a central rayon hospital in the settlement of Nizhneangarsk, as well as facilities envisaged by the targeted federal programs which have been adopted.

6. The Russian Federation Committee for Geology and the Use of Natural Resources is to make provision for the allocation of resources for the performance in 1994 of geological prospecting work in the Republic of Buryatia equivalent to the contributions made by that republic's mining enterprises for the reproduction of the mineral and raw material base.

7. The Republic of Buryatia Council of Ministers is to present to the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy and the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance proposals for the solution of the question of the allocation in 1995 to the Republic of Buryatia of centralized capital investments and appropriations for their financing for the replacement of dilapidated and damaged housing for construction workers of the Buryat section of the Baykal-Amur Mainline Railroad.

8. The Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy and the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance are to allocate to the Russian Federation Ministry of Nationalities and Regional Policy centralized capital investments and appropriations for their financing for the construction of the Ust-Dzhilinda to Romanovka highway and a bakery in the settlement of Nizhneangarsk (home areas of the minor nations of the north).

9. In 1995 the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy and the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance are to allocate to the Russian Federal Service for Television and Radio Broadcasting centralized capital investments and appropriations for their financing for the construction of a TV center in Ulan-Ude.

10. In 1994 7.6 billion rubles are to be allocated to the Republic of Buryatia Council of Ministers from the Russian Federation Government's reserve fund for the completion of work to eliminate the aftermath of the emergency situations which occurred in the republic in 1993.

11. In the distribution of resources which are to be allocated from the federal budget for the development of scientific and technical output in the sphere of town planning the Russian Federation State Committee for Architecture and Construction is to take into account the proposals of the Republic of Buryatia Council of Ministers.

[signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government.

Video Recalls Plesetsk Tragedies in 1973, 1980

PM1005121194 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 2 May 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report by S. Sokolova, identified by caption]

[Excerpt] The eternal flame at the obelisk in Plesetsk is a reminder of two terrible tragedies which took place at the missile and space flight test range. In June 1973 nine people died while testing rocket technology. And in March 1980, during preparations for a space launch, a powerful explosion of the already fueled space "submarine" [submarina] occured as a result of technical faults. Forty-eight young people died at their stations. According to eyewitness accounts many of them were engulfed by fire and burned alive instantaneously. Others, finding themselves in a hopeless situation, jumped from a great height, smashing on the concrete only to be also engulfed by the raging flames. [passage omitted]

Success in Fiber-Optic Technology Development Reported

PM1005122394 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0500 GMT 4 May 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report from Chelyabinsk-70 by Sergey Sergeyev, identified by caption]

[Text] [Sergeyev over video of optical fiber production facilities] Using standard copper wire, it is possible to transmit a few dozen telephone calls. But this is optical fiber. It is only 125 microns thick. Yet it is possible to transmit up to 15,000 calls along this very thin fiber. The technology and equipment for the production of optical fiber was developed in the southern Urals, at the Federal Nuclear Center in the closed city of Chelyabinsk-70.

Several years ago, the Russian Federation Ministry of Atomic Power and Industry approved the state conversion program "Russia's Fiber-Optic Communication Systems." The main part of the job fell to the Urals nuclear scientists, who have acquitted themselves brilliantly. They proposed that, unlike foreign firms using natural quartz which is very expensive and in short supply, we should use artificial quartz, which is purer and as a result makes it possible to increase the throughput of information and enhance reliability.

Yet listening to Anatoliy Barulin, general designer of our system for the production of optic fiber, you cannot but be amazed. Why is a Swedish fiber-optics line being installed in St. Petersburg and a Japanese one in the Far East, when our system has a great number of advantages recognized in the West.

International Affairs

Shmarov, U.S. Envoy Discuss Nukes, Conversion

PM0905092994 Moscow TRUD in Russian 7 May 94 p 3

[Report from roundup of UKRINFORM and TASS reports: "Defense Industry Open to Businessmen"]

[Text] An exchange of opinions on the fulfillment of the agreements reached in Moscow between the Ukrainian, U.S., and Russian presidents on the elimination of the nuclear weapons on Ukrainian soil took place between Ukrainian Vice Premier Valeriy Shmarov and Nicholas Burns, head of the U.S. economic delegation and senior director of the National Security Council. The guest was also familiarized with the programs for the conversion of Ukraine's defense industry which propose close cooperation with U.S. firms. Conversion processes could be considerably accelerated by the involvement of small-scale business as the most mobile form of entrepreneurship. The U.S. side's attention was drawn also to problems of Ukraine's space complex, where there is extensive scope for cooperation.

Russian Navy Plane Denied Landing at Belbek

LD0705060494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0547 GMT 7 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev 7 May TASS—A Russian Navy delegation may have to cancel its trip to Sevastopol scheduled for 7 May unless Ukraine changes its mind and decides to let the delegation's plane in.

The plane would land at Belbek's airport three miles north of Sevastopol, the main base of the disputed Black Sea Fleet, but Ukraine insists that the delegation led by First Deputy Navy Commander Igor Kasatonov go by train, a source in the Sevastopol city administration said.

The source also said that the administration has invited Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and Russian President Boris Yeltsin to attend Victory Day celebrations to be held on 9 May.

Russians Pelt Ukrainian Sailors With Eggs

LD0905155894 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1450 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Sevastopol, 9 May—Several thousand people gathered in the center of the town on the occasion of Victory Day. A Rukh activist in the crowd raised a Ukrainian flag, but a group of unknown persons tore it away from him.

Activists from the Russian Movement of Crimea [RDK] and the Russian Movement of Sevastopol threw eggs at Ukrainian sailors and students of the military institute who were marching triumphantly along the town's central avenue on the occasion of the holiday.

In an interview on French television and with local journalists, Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov said in part: "A normal situation will be preserved in Crimea because this completely corresponds to the interests of the people of the Republic of Crimea. Everything will be calm here. Economic reforms have been put in motion and are progressing. Nobody will be able to provoke us from the outside".

Asked which status he is requesting for Crimea, he said: "We are not requesting. This timescale is not used in relation to a people. We are defending our inalienable right to resolve our economic problems and to fully serve our own economic interests."

Debts to Former USSR Countries 'Rising Steeply'

LD1005090094 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2115 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] The debts of Ukrainian enterprises owed to their counterparts in other former USSR countries are rising steeply. According to a report by the economy directorate of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers, credit indebtedness increased by 65.3 percent in the first two months of this year alone, and was 20.5 trillion rubles on 1 March 1994. Debit indebtedness increased in the first two months of the year by 16.2 percent, and reached 6.5 trillion rubles on 1 March 1994. In particular, Ukrainian enterprises were 5.4 trillion rubles in debt to their trading partners in Russia in January-February, and now owe them 15.5 trillion rubles. (KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI, 7 May 1994)

Russian Services Implicated in Rukh Leader's Disappearance

AU0905145994 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 5 May 94 p 5

[Statement by the Press Group of Kiev's Procurator's Office; "The Boychyshyn Affair: The Search Continues"]

[Text] As already reported, on 18 January 1994, the Kiev Procurator's Office initiated a criminal case to investigate the fact of disappearance of Ukraine's People's Rukh [Movement for Perestroyka] Deputy Chairman Mykhaylo Boychyshyn.

A day earlier, the Internal Affairs Administration of Kiev's Radyanskyy Rayon initiated a criminal case to investigate the acts of hooliganism committed by two unknown persons on 15 January 1994 in the building occupied by Rukh.

In the capital, as well as in Lvov and Odessa Oblasts, operational investigation groups were created to study all the circumstances of the incident. The groups include officials of the Procurator's Office, Security Service, and the Militia.

The search continues: In Kiev, tens of thousands of facilities, in particular, railroads, wooded areas, and water reservoirs, were examined. Similar work was conducted in Lvov, where the victim previously lived and worked. There, M.I. Boychyshyn's [internal] passport was found in a mail-box. The investigators' group appeals to those who

have found the passport with a request to give their particulars to the militia. We also ask the person who telephoned Boychyshyn on 15 January 1994 at 19:40 [local time] to respond.

The search is based upon several versions. In particular, in connection with his participation in the election campaign, financial relations with representatives of business circles, possible unlawful acts on the part of criminal groupings, and also assumptions made by Stanislav Husak from Minsk (such information was spread by RUKH-PRESS on 13 April) on the involvement of Russian special services in Boychyshyn's disappearance, in view of the fact that the latter intended to hold, in Kiev, an international conference on the Balto-Black Sea oil reservoir.

We once again appeal to all those citizens, who can provide any information on the circumstances of Mykhaylo Illyarovych Boychyshyn's disappearance, with a request to turn to the nearest militia department.

Deployment of Peacekeepers to Bosnia Criticized

WS1005080194 Lvov RATUSHA in Ukrainian 28 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by Kost Chavaha: "Dollars in a Zinc Coffin"]

[Text] Trains loaded with military equipment painted in white crossed the state border yesterday at the city of Chop. The second battalion from the Ciscarpathian Military District is rushing to reinforce UN peacekeeping forces in Bosnia, more precisely, in the hottest spot there—the Muslim enclave of Gorazhde. Our young compatriots, who have given their consent to don "blue helmets," have already begun to count the "bucks" they will be paid for each day of service. Some of them will get $600 per month, while others will be paid $900. For this money, not even an unemployed American black man would agree to stick his neck out and risk being shot. The current misery and willingness to honestly, though with a great deal of risk, improve their family's financial situation without resorting to criminal activities, have forced the boys and men of Galicia to go to the Balkans. Watching the picturesque beaches of Balaton Lake roll past as they ride in the railroad cars, they do not yet suspect that UN technical services have already taken care of their front service and possible dark days await them.

According to Zagreb radio, additional zinc coffins have recently been stockpiled in military warehouses. It is no secret that the subsequent truce may prove unstable. Even though the Serbs have been forced to agree on a cease-fire and their cannons have been temporarily silenced, they have frequently violated previous agreements and shown an arrogant attitude toward peacekeepers. It was enough for Moscow to beckon Belgrade with its finger and the Serbian separatists recaptured the cannons seized by the Russian "blue" troopers on a previous day. In the vicinity of Gorazhde, Russian soldiers have also ended up among the UN hostages.

What can be said about the exceptionally obedient Ukrainian soldiers? By the way, they will be exposed to great military pressures in Bosnia. On the one hand, they will have to bend to the Kiev leadership, which continues to tailgate its "elder brother" in formulating foreign policy, while on the other hand, the Serbs are angry at Ukraine because it does not exhibit an openly pro-Russian attitude and has certain relations with Croatia. In addition, the Croatian Ruthenians and Ukrainians, as well as official Zagreb, have not abandoned their intentions to recapture Vukovar and other territories occupied by the Serbs.

Thus, the Ukrainian peacekeepers will not have to only carry out the instructions of the UN secretary general, but also permanently watch the behavior of their "elder brothers"—the Russians and the Serbs. Otherwise, the Serbian cutthroats will not pay attention to the fact that our boys are wearing "blue helmets." Speaking in a generally calm manner during a meeting marking the anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk nervously reacted to a banner carried by Ukrainian "Greenpeace" activists—who demanded that all the lethal Chernobyl reactors be closed down—explaining that there are no ways to raise money for energy resources, without which Ukraine will choke. This is an open lie however, and so are the statements that there is no money for essential medicines, raw materials, and spare parts for industrial enterprises, which have already put workers and engineers into despair and made them ready to take any steps. The high leadership, however, has managed to shake out huge amounts of hard currency from the state coffers to finance the UN peacekeeping battalions in former Yugoslavia.

Of course, nobody is against additional ways of earning money, even if they are dangerous, but, I repeat, they must be decent. Why, however, should this generate further impoverishment among a huge part of society? It is understandable that officials in the capital on the Dnepr are trying to look honorable before the world, especially the United Nations, and in this way pay for the debts of the Ukrainian SSR to this international organization. Ukraine has already lost its stake in the foreign property of the former USSR to Russia. Since Yeltsin's Russia has pronounced itself the inheritor to the Bolshevik empire, why would official Kiev not ask Moscow to pay the United Nations for the bills of KGB agents who were exclusively performing assignments for the Kremlin, hiding behind the USSR banner?

Yet another question arises: Did anybody consult leaders of the oblasts comprising the Ciscarpathian Military District, when the issue of the second peacekeeping battalion first arose? Were the deaths of our sons and daughters in Afghanistan and Chernobyl not enough? Do we have to send them to the Balkan slaughterhouse as well? One can only hope that in the new parliament there will be deputies who will address this issue directly to Ukraine's highest authorities.

National Affairs

First Crimean Parliament Session Opens in Simferopol

LD1005103494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Our correspondent reports that the first session of the new Crimean parliament opened in Simferopol today.

A total of 94 deputies are attending the sitting, 55 of them from the "Rossiya" presidential bloc.

At the beginning of the session Aleksandr Kruhlow, deputy of the Crimean Supreme Soviet, who is chairing the session, addressed the deputies. He stated that in the present circumstances Crimea can no longer accept being separated from Russia, its historical Motherland.

Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov spoke at the session. He wished the deputies success in their work and condemned the actions of the Ukrainian naval command with regard to the Black Sea Fleet units.

The deputies were also addressed by Konstantin Zatulin, a representative of the Russian State Duma. He appealed to the Crimean parliamentarians to make well-considered decisions so as not to exacerbate the situation in the Crimea.

The session will continue its work in the afternoon, after a break. Issues concerning the election of the Speaker of the Crimean Supreme Soviet, the restoration of the 1992 Crimean Constitution, changing the management of the Krym TV and Radio company, and several other questions are expected to be on the agenda.

Deputy Calls For Return to Russia

WS1005111194 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] The first session of the new Crimean Supreme Council was inaugurated in Simferopol today. The session was opened by Aleksandr Kruhlow, a 72-year-old deputy from Sevastopol, organizer of many meetings in Nakhimov Square, and an untiring fighter for the return of Sevastopol and the Crimea to Russia. The newly elected deputies were addressed by Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov. Sharing with them their feelings following their election to parliament, Meshkov said that the new parliament is to be subservient [kyshenkovyy] and obedient in its attitude to the citizens, by whom it was elected. Aleksandr Kruhlow, who took the floor at his own initiative, addressed the deputies as well as television viewers and the radio audience—the session was broadcast—with the question: How long are you going to tolerate an artificial separation of the Crimea from the fatherland, that is, from Russia? This problem, he emphasized, has to be resolved by the parliament as soon as possible.

The newly elected deputies were also greeted by a guest from Moscow, Russian State Duma Deputy Konstantin Zatulin, who expressed his confidence that the new parliament has the possibility to open a new chapter in Crimean history, and that the Crimea will become a promised land for everybody.

The Crimean Supreme Council [words indistinct] its working bodies.

Parties, Organizations Call For 'Interethnic Harmony'

AU1005092894 Kiev NARODNA HAZETA in Ukrainian No. 19 (150) May 94 p 3

["Agreement on Common Principles in the Sphere of the Development of Interethnic Relations and Ethnic Cultures in Ukraine" signed by 12 organizations and parties]

[Text] We, representatives of political parties, movements, ethnic culture societies, and other public organizations, having discussed the proposals by the Association "For Interethnic Peace and Harmony in Ukraine" in its statement of 23 December 1993, share the concern expressed there about Ukraine's future as an independent, indivisible, and democratic state.

Distressed by the political confrontation, escalation of violence, and exacerbation of relations among various social and ethnic groups in nearby foreign countries, as well as by the territorial claims upon Ukraine and adhering to democratic principles in resolving sociopolitical problems and defending human rights, we consider interethnic harmony in Ukraine to be one of the main preconditions for maintaining and strengthening our statehood. We also consider the provision of social stability and civic peace in our society to be one of the major task of all political forces of the country, especially during the period of the formation of new power structures.

Proceeding from these principles, the signatories to this agreement have agreed on the following main principles in their policy in the sphere of development of interethnic relations and ethnic cultures:

1. Observation of the ethnic and religious rights of all citizens of Ukraine and the revival and development of all of its nationalities.

2. Opposition to all manifestations of chauvinism, xenophobia, ethnic prejudice, or disrespect for national dignity. Such phenomena must primarily be rejected by those organizations from whose national midst they originate.

3. Protection of the rights of the individual in harmonious combination with respect for his ethnic rights and satisfaction of his ethnic cultural needs.

4. Provision for the rights of all nationalities and ethnic groups of Ukraine in the new constitution.

5. Satisfaction of the needs of believers of all faiths and opposition to the incitement of interethnic hostility.

We are ready to create a civic committee, composed of our representatives, to fulfill this agreement.

The agreement is open to signing by all political forces and public organizations.

The Association "For Interethnic Peace and Harmony in Ukraine"
The Association "New Ukraine"
The Ukrainian "Helsinki-90" Committee
The Ukrainian Republican Party

The Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists
The Party of Democratic Revival of Ukraine
Ukraine's Christian Democratic Party
The Association of Kiev Ethnic Culture Societies of Turkic- Speaking Peoples
The Ukrainian Republican Society of Russian Culture "Rus"
Ukraine's Liberal Democratic Party
The Kiev Coordinating Committee of Ukraine's Green Party
The T. Shevchenko "Prosvita" Society

Nationalists Campaign in Lvov

WS1005080494 Lvov RATUSHA in Ukrainian 28 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Omar Uarashvili: "UNA Is Anxious To Head Workers' Movement"]

[Text] A conference of Lvov Oblast workers, which was devoted to the establishment of the Lvov Oblast Coordinative Center of Workers Movement, was held on 23 April at the Radio and Television Palace of Culture in Lvov. Mykola Semenchenko, head of the Donbas regional council of strike committees, and representatives of company staffs from Rivne and Vinnytsya Oblasts were also invited to participate in the conference organized at the initiative of the Ukrainian National Assembly-Ukrainian National Self Defense [UNA- UNSO]. UNSO Deputy Commander Dmytro Korchynskyy speculated that the workers' movement is currently in a state of "clinical death." Therefore, in his opinion, the UNA-UNSO should revive the movement which will defend the interests of Ukrainian workers. Rostyslav Novozhenets, deputy chief of the Lvivprylad company, pointed out in his speech that, as of today, privatization is ruinous, because it is conducted without taking into account workers' demands, favoring the Mafia instead. In his opinion, the independent trade unions are no longer able to defend workers, despite the fact that they are headed by Rukh People's Deputy Yaroslav Kendzyor. Oleksandr Ilyuk, a representative of the Rivne metal-concrete construction plant, as well as other participants, noted that they no longer trust any civil or political parties and trade unions, such as Rukh or the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists. In their opinion, only UNA-UNSO can really uphold workers' demands. Participants in the conference adopted a resolution to establish, under UNA auspices, the Ukrainian Labor Assembly which will comprise company staffs, free trade unions, and strike committees. Also voiced at the conference were appeals to workers to support UNA-UNSO candidates in the local elections.

Local Councils Oppose Dry Nuclear Waste Storage

AU0905161594 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 6 May 94 p 4

[Volodymyr Dupak report from Zaporizhzhya: "The Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Electric Power Plant [AES] Will Not Be Halted?"]

[Text] Thanks to this week's delivery from Novosibirsk of nuclear fuel to the 61st-assembly Zaporizhzhya AES [nuclear electric power plant], the problem of fuel provision has been resolved for about one year.

As reported by the Information Center of the Zaporizhzhya AES, in summer, each one of the operating power units will be halted for a scheduled overhaul involving the reloading of fuel. This work will be started with Power Unit 1, which is presently under repair.

However, do not hasten to answer in the affirmative to the question posed in the heading. Under the pressure of the "Greens," sessions of the local councils of people's deputies of Kamyanka Dniprovska in Zaporizhzhya Oblast and of Nikopol in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, adopted a decision to hold, on 26 June, local referendums on building storage facilities for dry used nuclear fuel on the territory of the Zaporizhzhya AES.

We hope that residents of these towns and adjacent rayons will trust the conclusions made by atomic specialists—not only ours, but also those from the United States, Germany, Sweden, and Canada, where the system for dry-storing used nuclear fuel is already used. If the construction work takes one or one and one-half years longer, the Zaporizhzhya AES will have to start closing down power units next [1995] summer.

The reasons are that used nuclear fuel has not been evacuated from the plant for a long time, but accumulates in the reservoirs inside the sealed shells of the units. They cannot stretch indefinitely.

Belarus

Rally at U.S. Embassy Protests 'Intervention' in Yugoslavia

WS1005080994 Minsk VECHERNIY MINSK in Russian 5 May 94 p 1

[Report by Valeriy Stepanov under the "Political Zodiac" rubric: "Stop the Aggression in Yugoslavia!"]

[Text] A rally protesting the armed intervention of the United States and other NATO countries in the internal affairs of Yugoslavia has been held at the U.S. Embassy in the Republic of Belarus. The rally was organized and held by the Belarusian Committee of Solidarity with Serbs and Montenegrins, as well as the Minsk City Council of the Movement for Democracy, Social Progress, and Justice.

Participants in the rally submitted to the Supreme Soviet and the government a proposal to condemn intervention in the affairs of other nations, to use the authority of Belarus in the international arena to arrange collective activities for resolving all of Yugoslavia's problems at the negotiating table and excluding the use of force by any side, as well as to dissociate Belarus from the unfounded UN sanctions imposed against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

KGB Top Officers Discuss New Structure

WS0905143494 Minsk RESPUBLIKA in Russian 4 May 94 p 3

[Report attributed to BELINFORM: "Time for Reforms in KGB"]

[Text] The State Committee for State Security [KGB] has held a meeting with the KGB top managing and field leadership to discuss the enactment of the new KGB structure and staff.

As KGB Chief Henadz Lavitski stated, the aim of the reforms is to bring the KGB in line with its goals, its time demands, and to break decisively with its atypical functions.

Currently, KGB activities include conducting intelligence and counterintelligence, and providing power and management bodies with information necessary for making state decisions. The KGB will directly participate in the implementation of a state anticrime program by coordinating its activities with other Belarusian law enforcement agencies, strictly keeping within the framework of their competence and the acting legislation.

Hryb Views Presidential System, Neutrality, Army

WS0905123494 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Belarusian 6 May 94 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb by Aleh Hruzdzilovich; place and date not given: "Mechyslaw Hryb: 'We Should Not Lose Face, Sovereignty'"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Hruzdzilovich] You are one of the supporters and initiators of introducing a strong presidential system of power in Belarus. From where do you derive your confidence? Is it from your disappointment with the current power system, or from its disability to organize things? Or, perhaps, as some people state, we are heading toward dictatorship, and the introduction of the Presidency is the first, legal step in that direction? Or, perhaps, there are no reasons to dramatize the situation—this is simply an option for the most effective model of government?

[Hryb] I do not know anything about those striving toward dictatorship; in my opinion, the Presidency will allow us to create a system of government from the top to the bottom. The new Constitution is only a foundation for this—we need a law on local self-governments as well. By now, nobody is subordinated to anybody in Belarus. Local soviets are following their own paths, city soviets—their own, and so on and so forth. Their powers must be determined, including their vertical responsibilities to the president. Without the controllability of the system, it is impossible to even establish order, not to mention any movement forward. At one time, I had a clash with Shushkevich over this very issue. My attitude toward Stanislaw Shushkevich is good, but I disagree with him on this issue. In a democratic society, resolutions are adopted by the majority—I mean, the parliament. If you do not want to carry out a resolution by the majority, just make a statement about your disagreement and retire. What has become of the issue of collective security? Even though the parliament adopted a resolution, the speaker did not stop attacking it. You cannot do this. The system of government cannot work this way. However, the point is not only in specific people, but also in the ineffectiveness of the government system, in which every disputable question, more or less, must be submitted to a referendum—on the republican, oblast, rayon, or village soviet level. This way, we will only be quarreling with each other, while issues are left unresolved.

[Hruzdzilovich] Regarding the issue of neutrality. In general, this term is still being used, but it reminds me of that communism which was to come about... Has neutrality, as a matter of fact, ceased to be a goal and transformed itself into a card of the political game?

[Hryb] We do not deny neutrality, but, for the time being, we do not have it; it is rather doubtful whether we will have it before the year 2000. Can we have neutrality with 30,000 Russian troops armed with nuclear weapons on Belarusian territory? We have agreed on the withdrawal of these troops, and they will be withdrawn; they are already being withdrawn. By now, however, I think that leaving our Army without the support of other CIS countries would just disrupt operations and break it into pieces. The Army will simply cease to exist. We will be incapable of feeding, dressing, and equipping the Army with good firearms.

[Hruzdzilovich] Do we need the Army at all, if nobody is going to attack us?

[Hryb] One must always think of tomorrow. Nobody is going to attack us today, but you never know what will happen tomorrow, do you? Yes, we have adopted a military doctrine which does not envision any specific country as a potential enemy. However, does that mean that the Army should be disbanded? No, it does not. Even neutral countries have armies. Moreover, the concept of neutrality is subject to change over the course of time. Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia actually do not have their own Armed Forces; these forces will appear in about 20 years, not earlier... But if the world shakes, what will we do? How will we defend our sovereignty? Are we going to be entrapped again by this side or that? [passage omitted]

Newspaper Editors Announce Suspension of Publication

WS0905105494 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 1

[Open letter issued by the chief editors of Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA, ZVYAZDA, SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA, and MINSKAYA PRAWDA; date not given: "Belarusian Press on the Brink of Ruin"]

[Text] Dear Readers! It is perhaps for the first time in the history of Belarusian journalism that we address you with those words.

The newspapers that we happen to manage reflect political and socioeconomic processes in different ways. Sometimes, reality receives utterly contrary assessments. This is only normal. A diversity of opinions is one of the main illustrations of social democratization.

However, the time has come for all disagreements to be put aside.

The Belarusian press has found itself on the brink of ruin!

Recent days have seen yet another steep jump in paper prices, now running between 8 and 10 million rubles [R] per tonne. In addition, rental payments and prices for printing materials, publishing, and transportation services have all increased considerably. The costs of publishing a large-circulation newspaper are nearing R1 billion a week. Subscription revenues are only enough for a few days. It stands to reason that while setting prices for our publications, we tried to make them affordable for all segments of society. This is a goal any civilized state should seek.

Unfortunately, neither advertising nor other forms of commercial activities, to which our papers are forced to resort, can ensure the continued existence for the press.

We have repeatedly called upon parliament and the government to undertake urgent measures to protect openness. Top priority measures include: compensating postal workers for newspaper shipments, distributions, and deliveries; support of printing enterprises; a centrally managed system of paper distribution; and lower taxes. Regrettably, our requests have not been heard.

The situation that has now taken shape forces us to suspend publication of our newspapers.

This is not a strike, even though there are grounds to call one. However, aware of the great responsibility assumed by the press during the presidential campaign, we, for the time being, decline from applying this legal tool to protect our civil and professional rights. Editorial staffs continue to work as normal, and are ready to resume publication as soon as a way out the present deadlock is found.

Dear Readers: Our conscientiousness is clear in front of you—we have done everything possible...

We will also do the impossible, and will try to publish issues devoted to May Day [1 May] and Victory Day [9 May], so that we do not spoil your festive mood.

[Signed] Igor Osinskiy, SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA chief editor; Iosif Seredich, NARODNAYA GAZETA chief editor; Vladimir Narkevich, ZVYAZDA chief editor; Nikolay Shloma, MINSKAYA PRAWDA chief editor.

Newspapers Resume Publication

WS0905141694 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Belarusian 6 May 94 p 1

[Open letter issued by Iosif Syaredich, editor in chief of NARODNAYA GAZETA: "NARODNAYA GAZETA Will Always Be With Its People!"]

[Text] Only several issues of NARODNAYA GAZETA failed to appear. This also applies to SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA, ZVYAZDA, and MINSKAYA PRAWDA. The paper received numerous bewildered phone calls: Are the authorities unable to help the media during these difficult times?

As for NARODNAYA GAZETA, it expects fair relations with the state, its founder—the Supreme Soviet—and the government, rather than help. The Presidium adopted a resolution obliging the state to pay for the printing of laws, decrees, and other legislative acts on supplementary pages. Normally, it would have to provide the newspaper with necessary materials and funds. But what really happened? Until now, our newspaper has not been paid for the second half of last year and the first quarter of this year. When a question came up about purchasing paper for supplementary pages for the rest of the year, a declaration was issued, saying: "The Supreme Soviet has no money..." The newspaper had to secure a bank loan of more than 1 billion rubles [R] to buy paper for those pages, ordered by the newspaper's founder. We hoped that this issue will be eventually resolved.

Unfortunately, after almost two months, the paper has not yet received the money back. If it were a matter of R100,000-200,000, one could forget this sum, but the state owes the paper nearly R2 billion.

This is why, dear readers, we were forced to suspend the publication of our newspaper. Beginning today, its publication—and that of SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA, ZVYAZDA, and MINSKAYA PRAVDA—will be resumed. Serious talks were held with the founder and

government structures. There is every reason to believe that the attitude toward NARODNAYA GAZETA will be more fair.

On 4 May, chief editors of the above papers met with Prime Minister Kebich. We upheld the interests of both our newspaper and the entire Belarusian press. From the state reserves, two tonnes of paper have been allocated and will be distributed among publications commensurate with the size their circulation. Publications whose leadership refused to join the action of solidarity will certainly receive their portion. Well, life is always easier behind someone else's back...

Although the paper will not be given by the state free of charge, the most important thing is that it has been provided and there is no need to deliver it from Syktywkar or Kandapoga. One more thing: As V. Kebich promised, future paper purchases will be carried out on a centralized basis. Newspapers will receive financial assistance in the form of cheap credits. A possibility arose that taxes and tariffs on printing services might be lowered. Most importantly, the state will subsidize the postal service which, in turn, will relieve the papers from covering delivery and distribution costs. Also, some other proposals were accepted which were intended to protect openness by stabilizing the situation of the press.

True, neither M. Hryb nor V. Kebich have so far signed any official documents confirming the compromise reached between the newspapers that were forced to suspend their activities and the authorities. However, let us hope that the high-ranking officials will make good on their promises. We would so much like to put the crisis behind us and never see it happen again. We decided not to wait until all legal matters are handled because we know that readers look forward to receiving NARODNAYA GAZETA and other papers every day. So, the editorial staff will do its best to ensure that NARODNAYA GAZETA is always with the people. We want to thank all those who cared for the fate of our paper and who would give anything for the freedom of speech, democracy, and the revival of their native Belarus.

We would like to assure you that those cases of "truancy," which did not happen through any fault of NARODNAYA GAZETA, SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA, ZVYAZDA, and MINSKAYA PRAWDA, will be compensated for by the end of this quarter. We will keep our word, esteemed readers! We hope that our friendship will become even stronger, more sincere, and fruitful. This is why we trust that subscriptions for the third quarter, which began yesterday, will bring good results. Let me note that the price of almost all national publications newspapers will reach R9,000. The papers accepted this low amount based on the assumption that, like bread, newspapers should be affordable for all social groups—even though there are people for whom even this price is too high. This is why we call for the leadership of enterprises, institutions, collective and state farms, and other people to help those who have found themselves in a difficult situation. NARODNAYA GAZETA should really be in every house, with every family.

[Signed] Iosif Syaredich, NARODNAYA GAZETA editor in chief.

Moldova

Ilascu Death Penalty Allegedly Changed to Prison Term

AU0905183794 Bucharest EVENIMENTUL ZILEI in Romanian 5 May 94 p 10

[Report by Iulian Chifu: "Mircea Snegur and Igor Smirnov Agreed To Convert Ilie Ilascu's Death Penalty Into 20 Years of Imprisonment"]

[Text] On Wednesday, 4 May, sources at the parliament in Chisinau revealed to EVENIMENTUL ZILEI that during President Mircea Snegur's 28 April meeting in Tiraspol with the separatist Dniester leader Igor Smirnov, they have approached the issue of the political prisoners [held in the self-styled Dniester Republic], as well as the issue of the death penalty passed on Ilie Ilascu. The two political leaders agreed to convert his death penalty into 20 years of imprisonment.

The same sources revealed that Nicolae Andronic, the chairman of the [Moldovan] parliamentary commission in charge of having the Tiraspol political prisoners freed and restoring the rights of deputy Ilie Ilascu, was not allowed to attend the negotiations by the Dniester party, because of Andronic's inflexible stance regarding the unconditioned release of the six political prisoners.

Kazakhstan

Reduced Staffing Causes Problems at Semipalatinsk

PM0905150794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 28 Apr 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report from Semipalatinsk test site by S. Polyayev]

[Text] Russia is prepared to extend the moratorium on nuclear tests. In connection with this it is envisaged that all Russian scientists will have left the nuclear test site in Semipalatinsk by the beginning of July. Incidentally, right now only 20 percent of the original number of servicing personnel remain at the site. This is insufficient to maintain the site properly and to ensure its security. At the insistence of the Kazakhstani Air Force, helicopter flights over the nuclear facilities without a special permit are banned. The last authorized flight took place 13 February this year.

Despite the high level of radioactivity at the test site, the facilities are not being guarded. Furthermore, the local authorities are seriously considering setting up a livestock farm on the territory of the site. The military also fear that abandoned equipment and cables, which could constitute a radioactive hazard, may be removed by pilferers. An unexploded nuclear charge that remains in one of the galleries also presents a threat. It cannot be defused because there are no specialists, and it cannot be detonated.

Kyrgyzstan

Chamber of Commerce Signs Trade Agreement With Kazakhstan

LD0905153694 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 2300 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] An agreement on trade and economic cooperation has been signed in Almaty by the trade and commerce chambers of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. It is well known that the trade and commerce chamber of Kyrgyzstan includes entrepreneurs, industrialists, representatives of cooperative movements, and private farms.

The signing of this agreement is expected to be followed by the opening of joint ventures and the organization of fairs and meetings at a state level between businessmen of both countries. The decrees recently adopted by the Supreme Council will help encourage partnership and economic cooperation and create favorable conditions for mutually beneficial cooperation.

Tajikistan

Russian Border Guards Warn 'Opposition Guerrillas'

LD0905133994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0819 GMT 9 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 9 May—Last night, Russian border guards patrolling a sector manned by the Pyanj border detachment thwarted an attempt by a group of Tajik opposition guerrillas to force their way across the border from Afghanistan.

Commenting on this report, Lieutenant General Anatoliy Chechulin, commander of Russian border guards in Tajikistan, said that recently, the hard-line Tajik opposition, which has gone to ground in the northern provinces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, has markedly stepped up its provocative sallies in the zone patrolled by the Moskovskiy and Pyanj border detachments. During the past week alone Russian border guards manning these sectors had thwarted four attempts by small but well-armed groups to infiltrate Tajikistan from Afghanistan.

The Russian general noted that border guards, using artillery, had destroyed all these groups. He also declared that Russian border guards would suppress any further provocations with all the firepower at their disposal.

Uzbekistan

Report on Day of Europe Celebrations in Tashkent

LD0905102194 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Russian 0215 GMT 9 May 94

[Excerpts] People throughout the world are celebrating the day of victory in World War II today. [passage omitted] In our Republic, this day is also celebrated as the Day of Europe. For the first time a week of European culture is being held in Tashkent, organized by a European Economic Union mission and the coordination bureau of the Republic of Uzbekistan. During this week concerts, plays, and music festivals will be held in the Ali Sheri Navoi Theater. Arts, crafts, and porcelain exhibitions and a week of European films will also be held. Today, the Day of Europe, will be celebrated with a concert by the Symphony Orchestra of Uzbekistan in the Bahor Hall. [passage omitted]

Report on Consumer Goods Production

LD0905104394 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Russian 0215 GMT 9 May 94

[Summary] About 2,500 small and joint enterprises have been registered in Tashkent's Mirabadskiy rayon over the past two years. More than half of these enterprises specialize in the production of consumer goods, and since the begining of this year they have produced goods valued at 500 million sum-coupons. More than 20,000 people are engaged in this sphere of entrepreneurship.

Armenia

Parliament Awaiting Azerbaijan's Signed Protocol

NC0905203994 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] The sides that signed the Bishkek meeting's protocol on the peaceful settlement of the Karabakh problem—which was signed by Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenia, Russia, and Kyrgyzstan but not by Azerbaijan—have declared that the agreement is open for signature.

Rasul Guliyev, the chairman of the Azerbaijani Parliament, telephoned Babken Ararktsyan, the chairman of the Armenian Supreme Council, on 7 May informing him that Azerbaijan will sign the Bishkek protocol. This was reported by the Supreme Council press service, which also noted that the Armenian Supreme Council has not yet received the document ratifying that protocol.

Minister Says Russian Troops Needed for Karabakh Peace

LD1005083394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1147 GMT 10 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan May 10 TASS—Speaking on the Armenian TV late on Monday evening, Davil Shakhnazarian, roving ambassador under the Armenian president and the republic's acting security minister, expressed the hope that the Karabakh conflict would be settled shortly, stressing that this required the posting of Russian peace-keeping troops in the conflict area.

"The withdrawal of Karabakh troops from the occupied Azeri territories is out of the question, unless disengagement forces are moved into the region, guaranteeing a ceasefire there," he stated.

"International inspectors are unable to provide such guarantees," Shakhnazarian stated. "The disengagement forces must come from Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States. These are the realities that we must reckon with," he added.

Shakhnazarian believes that the Karabakh war is to end soon. "This war," he stressed, "can have only one end—a lasting and guaranteed peace," he noted, stressing that "the present Azeri leadership has today come closer to a ceasefire than ever before".

"All the world recognises Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent military-political factor in the region," the Armenian president's representative said. "Azerbaijan will also recognise this soon," he is convinced.

Nevertheless, Shakhanazarian believes that Baku continues to pin hopes on a military settlement of the Karabakh problem. "The Azeri leadership's stand is changing constantly, shifting from one extremity to another. Such an unstable foreign policy line does not add confidence in the authorities of that republic in the world," Shakhnazaryan noted.

"Armenia will go on backing Nagorno-Karabakh in everything," he stated, admitting that many Armenian volunteers were fighting in Karabakh. There must be more Armenian volunteers there, and they must come from all over the world," Shakhnazarian believes.

Armenia Seeks Good Relations With Turkey

AU0905115794 Sofia STANDART NEWS in Bulgarian 4 May 94 p 10

[Interview with Armenian Foreign Minister Fahan Papazyan by Garo Khayrabedyan; place and date not given: "Armenia Has Done Its Bit To Normalize Relations with Turkey"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Khayrabedyan] How do you view Armenia's place in the Black Sea Economic Zone [BSEZ]?

[Papazyan] Like Bulgaria, Armenia is a member country of the BSEZ. In our foreign policy we try as far as possible to react positively to all initiatives, and we have the same approach toward the BSEZ. However, the problem is that our expectations in this area have not been fully justified. One of the reasons is that this is a new organization that is only now creating its structures, and this process is not yet completed. In addition, some of the BSEZ member countries still have not established good relations with one another and smoothed out their difficulties. In particular, I would like to mention our relations with Turkey, which have not been settled as yet. It is strange that two countries that are members of the same organization still have not established diplomatic relations with one another, not to mention that our common border is closed. Turkey has its own explanations for this, and some of them are perhaps understandable, but in reality the relations between our two countries are such that there can be no question of cooperation between us at the moment. For its own part, Armenia has done everything possible to normalize relations with Turkey. We have done our bit, it now remains for the other side to meet us halfway. If Turkey is interested in developing and expanding its relations with Armenia, it should take the necessary steps. However, it is absolutely unacceptable to set conditions for this. We are often told that if we achieve a truce in Nagorno-Karabakh, if the self-defense units of the Karabakh Armenians pull out of some of the occupied regions, then everything will be settled. We find this approach unacceptable. I would like to stress that our country's foreign policy is based on the principle of equality with every state before the law.

[Khayrabedyan] Does Armenia intend to join the Partnership for Peace Program?

[Papazyan] It is my opinion as foreign minister that Armenia will join sooner or later.

[Khayrabedyan] Georgia has already joined, and Azerbaijan is about to do the same. Is Armenia not delaying things, and may this not have consequences for your country?

[Papazyan] I think there is no reason for alarm. We are not obliged to do everything that the Georgians, Azerbaijanis, or anyone else do. We have our own state policy and our own interests, and will join when we consider the time is most appropriate.

[Khayrabedyan] What is your view on solving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict? Will the appointment of Swedish diplomat Jan Elliasson [name as transliterated] as chairman of the Minsk Group of the CSCE help toward an early settlement of the problem?

[Papazyan] It is increasingly difficult to say when and how this war will end. Everyone should realize that Nagorno-Karabakh is a party to the conflict, so it should take part in the negotiations. It is probable that Elliason is more effective, in comparison with this predecessor Rafaeli [name as transliterated]; he is trying to change things, but I cannot give an assessment at the moment. I know one thing for certain, namely that the conflict should be settled as soon as possible by peaceful means, through political talks with all interested parties. Until this happens, I am sure that the Armenian people will withstand the difficulties and wait for a just settlement.

Azerbaijan

Nagorno-Karabakh Forces Break Cease-Fire

LD0905101394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] INTERFAX has been informed by the press service of the Nagorno-Karabakh defense army that from 0000 on 9 May the armed forces of the self-proclaimed republic have been strictly observing the unilateral cease-fire that was declared yesterday in Stepanakert. Despite this, according to the same source, last night and again today, the Azeri forces shelled Karabakh positions in several sections of the front, particularly in the Mardakert region. It was stressed in Stepanakert that there had been no return fire.

Meanwhile, according to information from Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense, at about 0300, i.e., after cease-fire was declared, Armenian forces attacked Azeri positions in the south of the Fizulinskiy rayon. The attack was beaten off, a military report from Baku states.

Baku Reports Nearly 100 Armenian Troops Killed

NC0905154194 Baku Radio Baku International Service in Azeri 1300 GMT 9 May 94

["Text" of the Azerbaijani Ministry of Defense Press Service communique; date not given]

[Text] The enemy forces, which have been reinforced with additional units from Armenia, have launched a new attack in the Fizulinskiy sector of the front line. Azerbaijan's military subunits in that area have forced the Armenians to withdraw. They have killed nearly 100 enemy troops and destroyed a quantity of their military equipment.

Armenia's military units also attacked the vicinity of the Omar Pass in Kelbadzharskiy Rayon. Combat operations are taking place in that area at the present time.

Meanwhile, the Armenian enemy forces have fired on our positions in Gorenboyskiy, Terterskiy, and Agdamskiy Rayons.

Azerbaijanis Violate Cease-Fire 10 May

LD1005100194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0943 GMT 10 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan May 10 TASS—Azeri troops heavily pounded the positions of Karabakh forces with artillery at the eastern section of the front at 06:00 this morning and mounted an offensive against the village of Bashkarvend, ITAR-TASS learnt at the press service of the Karabakh army, which stressed that the actions by the Azeri side run counter to the protocol adopted by the Bishkek meeting of legislators of the Commonwealth of Independent States on a Karabakh settlement, providing for a ceasefire along the entire front.

According to the same source, following artillery preparation fire, Azeri troops supported by armour launched an attack at 10:15 at the north-eastern section of the front against the village of Yarmdzha in the Mardakertskiy district, Nagorno-Karabakh. A report received at 11:00 says that Karabakh units are successfully repulsing enemy attacks.

A tense situation persists at other sections of the front, Stepanakert reports.

As for the Armenian borders, it was quiet here last night and this morning, ITAR-TASS learnt at the press service of the republican Defence Ministry.

Mojahedin Involvement in Karabakh Fighting Alleged

PM0905113994 Moscow TRUD in Russian 7 May 94 p 8

[Unattributed answer to reader's letter: "They Would Seem Not To Be There. But They Are Shooting"—first paragraph is reader's letter]

[Text] Is it true that Afghan mojahedin are taking part in the war between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan? [signed] I. Kirillov, Moscow.

Recently the 20-year-old Afghan mojahedin Bakhtlyar Verballakh Baberzaid [name as transliterated], was captured by the Karabakh side in Azerbaijan's Fizulinskiy Rayon. The young captive, who comes from the Afghan city of Mazar-e Sharif, told an INTERFAX correspondent

that in his opinion there are 2,000-2,500 Afghan mojahedin permanently in the Azerbaijan army. He said that up to 250 mojahedin are fighting on the Fizulinskiy Rayon salient alone, where he was in command of a detachment of 20 men.

The prisoner also reported that in Azerbaijan he was promised remuneration of up to $5,000 a month. For the first two months—a trial period—he was paid in local currency, 1,000 manats.

He said that the Afghan mojahedin are mostly used in the infantry, in the assault detachments since most of them have rich experience of warfare in mountain conditions and have an excellent mastery of all types of firearms, mainly Soviet-produced ones.

Failed CIS Mediation Effort Viewed

MK0705091094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 May 94 p 1

[Aydyn Mekhtiyev report under the "Conflict" rubric: "Another Karabakh Settlement Attempt Fails. Baku Believes That Middlemen Have Taken Armenian Side"]

[Excerpts] Negotiations on a settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, which took place on 4 and 5 May in Bishkek under the auspices of negotiators of a CIS Interparliamentary Assembly peacemaking group and the Russian Federation Government, did not, as many observers predicted, contribute to the solution of the sharp contradictions between official Baku and the Armenian side. [passage omitted]

The call on the conflicting sides to cease fire on the night of 9 May sounds at least strange given that by refusing to sign the protocol Baku has effectively assumed no cease-fire obligations. An official spokesman for the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry, who asked not to be identified, told your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent that Russia and chiefs of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, who formally acted as middlemen at the Bishkek meeting, have in many instances effectively backed the Armenian side's demands, a stance that has become a factor of pressure of sorts on the Azerbaijani delegation, which nevertheless did not sign the final protocol. On the day when consultations on the Karabakh settlement started in Bishkek, the Azerbaijani leader left for Brussels, where a document on Azerbaijan's joining the NATO "Partnership for Peace" program was signed. According to available reports, NATO chiefs have stated their organization's readiness to take necessary steps to establish security and stability in the region. The fact that on his way from Brussels to Baku Geydar Aliyev made a brief stopover in the Turkish capital, Ankara, underlines the importance attached by the Baku authorities to Turkey's support in the current difficult situation. [passage omitted]

Delegate Comments on Bishkek Talks

944K1197A Baku AZERBAYDZHAN in Russian 7 May 94 p 1

[Reports by Nargiz Sadykhly and Azertadzh: "Azerbaijani Members of Parliament in Bishkek"]

[Text] A parliamentary delegation of the Azerbaijan Republic left on 3 May for Bishkek for a meeting of the Interparliamentary Assembly of members of the CIS.

As Vice Speaker Afiyaddin Dzhalilov, leader of the delegation, declared at a briefing prior to departure, B. Araraktsyan, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Armenia, Armenian deputies, representatives of the Azerbaijani and Armenian communities of Nagornyy Karabakh, political scientists, experts, leaders of the Aland Peace Institute (Finland), and representatives of the Aland and Finnish parliaments would be taking part in the meeting convened on the initiative of M. Sherimkulov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Kyrgyzstan, and V. Shumeyko, chairman of the Interparliamentary Assembly, together with the Azerbaijani members of parliament (G. Guliyev, M. Efendiyev, Sh. Aliyev, S. Mamedov, and M. Zabelin). The question of a peaceful settlement of the Karabakh confrontation will be discussed.

The main issues will be a cease-fire the length of the front, the withdrawal of troops from the occupied territories, and the return of refugees to their permanent places of residence.

The Azerbaijani delegation will also seek a political assessment of the aggressive actions of Armenia, which has occupied 20 percent of the territory of Azerbaijan. Concerning the question of the possible deployment of a CIS peacekeeping force on the territory of Nagornyy Karabakh, A. Dzhalilov emphasized that the Azerbaijani side would accept only political and diplomatic mediation, and nothing else. "The cause of the Azerbaijani people is just. We will uphold the interests of Azerbaijan in every possible way," the vice speaker concluded.

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The first positive signs emerged at a meeting in the capital of Kyrgyzstan of working groups of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly on Karabakh. Following three hours of negotiations behind closed doors, journalists' questions were answered by Afiyaddin Dzhalilov, deputy chairman of the Azerbaijan National Assembly.

"It is hard to say whether some document will be signed at the meeting," the head of the Azerbaijani delegation declared. "Discussions are taking place, primarily concerning the withdrawal of the Armenian armed formations from the territory of Azerbaijan, the return of the refugees, and the establishment of a lasting cease-fire." A. Dzhalilov observed that the question of observers would be decided today. To the question: "How does the Azerbaijani delegation view this request," A. Dzhalilov said:

"We proceed from the fact that the conflict has grown into a war and that Armenia and Azerbaijan should resolve this by peaceful means. It is today a question of not burying the problem in the 'sand,' a war is under way on the territory of Azerbaijan. One million refugees are living under tent-city conditions. Because of this, reason must prevail."

Former Defense Minister Under Investigation

944K1198A Baku AZERBAYDZHAN in Russian 7 May 94 p 1

[Article by F. Arnfolgu: "Investigation Completed"]

[Text] On the even of the second anniversary of the fall of Shusha a briefing was held in the republic procuracy. Procurator General of Azerbaijan Ali Omarov reported that the investigation of the case of the betrayal of the city of Shusha to the enemy had been completed. More than 4,000 witnesses had been questioned and more than 400 expert appraisals conducted. The accused are the former defense minister, Ragim Gaziyev, the regimental commander Nail Kyazimov, and self-defense battalion commanders Fakhraddin Safarov and Tofig Oguz and another individual whose name A. Omarov refused to give.

R. Gaziyev is being accused of abuse of power, appropriation of state property in especially large amounts, and also illegal acquisition of weapons. N. Kyazimov and F. Safarov are being accused of insubordination and willful departure from their positions during combat actions. The last two are no longer living.

The investigation established that on the eve of the seizure of Shusha half of the 1,500 personnel of the Azerbaijan army were absent. To the question of who gave the order to withdraw the combat equipment from the city the leader of the investigatory group, an investigator of especially important cases under the Procuracy General, Medzhid Khasyyev, answered: "The technical equipment was not withdrawn from the city, it was in unfit condition."

A. Omarov stated that he deliberately did not use the word "treason" because he does not believe that anyone could betray the Motherland. In his opinion, the city fell as a result of the cowardice and negligent attitude toward their duties on the part of individuals responsible for its defense. But in society there has long been the conviction that Shusha and Lachin were victims of betrayal and political intrigues.

As M. Khasyyev noted, the seizure of Shusha and Lachin must be regarded in the context of the events and processes taking place in the republic at the time. He suggested that journalists ask the question why the parliament had not yet given a political-legal assessment of the occupation of these regions.

Work of Internal Affairs Ministry Viewed

944K1198B Baku AZERBAYDZHAN in Russian 7 May 94 p 1

[Azertadzh report: "Protecting the Interests of the People and the Interests of the State. President's Apparatus Conference"]

[Text] On 29 April in the president's apparatus, under the chairmanship of President of the Republic Geydar Aliyev, there was an expanded conference with the participation of management workers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The conference opened with an introduction by Geydar Aliyev.

A report was heard from Minister of Internal Affairs of Azerbaijan Vagif Novruzov.

Speaking of the activity in recent years of the ministry, which occupied an important position in the system of state structures, the speaker noted that, while implementing a number of measures, the Ministry of Internal Affairs had still been unable to handle the duties assigned to it. Serious mistakes had been made in the area of providing for collegial leadership and in the selection and placement of personnel.

The speaker was disturbed about the negative public opinion that had developed concerning the workers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and local police organs, who were called upon to wage a battle against crime, bribery, and corruption. The speaker emphasized that we must not put up with the fact that confidence in the police organs is decreasing each day. The fight against crime has slackened and cases of traffic safety violations are becoming more frequent.

Analyzing the activity of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the speaker noted that, having at one time been subjected to pressure from certain political grouping., the central apparatus of the Ministry of Internal Affairs has ended up incapable of performing the difficult tasks facing it in this difficult period for the republic. Although many devoted professionals work here, people who honestly serve the interests of the people, the leadership of the Ministry of Internal Affairs cannot organize their work correctly. The lack of unity in the central apparatus and among members of the collegium has led to serious shortcomings in the ministry's work. The atmosphere created in the collective has not been benevolent and possibilities of improving its work are not being taken advantage of. Serious shortcomings have been allowed in the organization of the activity of local internal affairs organs.

Having discussed problems of selection and placement of personnel, the speakers noted the shortcomings in this sphere. Sometimes new appointments were made without the knowledge of members of the collegium and there was a negligent attitude toward suggestions to regulate personnel policy. The speakers spoke with alarm about the fact that cases of bribery and corruption are encountered in the very organization that is called upon to fight such phenomena.

It was noted that the main reason for the serious mistakes and shortcomings in the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs lies in the lack of the corresponding republic legislation. Police organs are still working with obsolete laws and regulations, which has a negative impact on the effectiveness of the measures taken. At the conference the idea was expressed that workers of the police force, which was previously called upon to defend the interests of the people and the interests of the state, should not join any political group. There was also discussion of the need to strengthen the material and technical base of the Ministry

of Internal Affairs, the use of advanced practice for stepping up its activity, and the adoption of measures to reinforce social protection of police workers and improve the conditions for their work.

The results of the conference were summed up by the President of the Republic Geydar Aliyev, who discussed in detail the tasks facing organs of the Ministry of Internal Affairs today.

First Deputy Prime Minister Fuad Guliyev, state advisers Arif Ragimzade and Gabil Guseynli, and other officials participated in the work of the conference.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Discusses Significance of Victory Day

LD0905104894 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0810 GMT 9 May 94

["Victory Day" interview with Supreme Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze by Nato Oniani; place not given—live]

[Excerpts] This interview will be shorter than usual because today is 9 May, which is Victory Day, and I know that you are busy. There are various opinions about this day. Some regard it as the day of victory over fascism. But there is also the opinion that it was not Georgia's war, the Georgians' war, and that we should not have taken part in this war, and so on and forth. What is your assessment of what happened 49 years ago today?

[Shevardnadze] Thank you. First I would like to greet all veterans and participants in the war. I know almost all of them in person. [passage omitted]

Now to that equivocal attitude. I was upset to a certain extent over parliament's failure to adopt a resolution [reinstituting 9 May as a holiday]. Some deputies have a different understanding of the importance of those years, and the contribution of the fallen heroes and those who are still with us today, toward the struggle for peace in the world. I think that people who do not understand this and believe that the veterans fought not for Georgia but for the interests of a foreign country, and that they served the interests of a different system, know little about the matter. [passage omitted]

Those who fail to understand that the 300,000 people [from Georgia] who, while defending their own country, sacrificed themselves for the freedom of other nations, have a very vague understanding of the essence and purpose of national movement and of the people who truly fought for the interests of this movement.

Although many might not have realized it at the time, or could have realized it subconsciously, the struggle against fascism was a struggle for universal ideals. The same universal ideals inspired the revolution of the eighties and the beginning of the nineties. This revolution gave freedom to nations, to Europe and to Georgia. Without victory over fascism, there would not have been the revolution of the eighties, the liberating revolution which brought about freedom and democracy in former Soviet Union republics. This is a logical chain and it cannot be denied. I think that people who do not understand it have failed to keep abreast of the times.

Therefore, by marking 9 May, we are paying our respects to the memory of people who sacrificed themselves for the freedom of nations and for independence, to those who fought for these ideals.

Today we talk about building a free and democratic Georgia. Without the cornerstone that these people laid by fighting against fascism, Georgia would not have gained its independence. [passage omitted]

Finally, one of the major achievements of those great years was the (?emergence) of the United Nations Organization and its Security Council. We may not be impressed by the role this organization is playing today [word indistinct], but without it our planet would not have survived. [Words indistinct] people who fought against fascism created a certain guarantee of a peaceful life for future generations. [passage omitted]

Russian Official on Introducing Peacekeeping Troops

LD0605170394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1520 GMT 6 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi May 6 TASS—Chairman of the State Duma Committee for the Commonwealth Konstantin Zatulin has made a trip to Abkhazia to specify the Abkhazian stand on the eve of a regular round of Abkhazian-Georgian negotiations.

Asked about conditions to introduce peace-makers in the conflict zone, Zatulin stressed it should be separating and not occupational troops.

"The introduction of peace-makers in all Abkhazian areas would be an insult for a party to the conflict, since it would entail the side's recognition as incapable de facto on its territory. Bearing in mind the principle of equal responsibility of the sides, this would also result in the introduction of troops in Georgia," said Zatulin.

In his opinion, a plan to stabilize the Abkhazian situation should include the introduction of separating peace-making troops in the area of the Inguri River, presence of international observers in the conflict zone and a possibility of flexible reaction in case of a threat of conflict resumption.

"I hope that the upcoming negotiations will manage to bring closer together the Georgian and Abkhazian stands on the issue," said the committee chairman.

Situation in Abkhazia Improves 'Considerably'

LD0905141494 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1000 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Abkhazian Svaneti, 9 May—The military and operational situation in the Dali gorge has improved considerably. Georgian positions were reinforced and more reinforcements are due to arrive later. Fighters from all parts of Georgia joined the local population in defense of the area.

Akaki Gasviani, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, has been visiting Abkhazian Svaneti for several days.

Georgian Bands Continue Attacks in Abkhazia

LD1005105394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0922 GMT 10 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi, 10 May—The situation in Abkhazia's Galiyskiy Rayon is still difficult, with armed Georgian groups continuing to infiltrate the territory of the rayon, attacking civilians and carrying out acts of sabotage. A well-informed source in the republican government told the ITAR-TASS correspondent this today.

According to the aforementioned source, about 250 armed men are currently on the territory of Galiyskiy Rayon, having crossed the confrontation line between the Georgian and Abkhaz forces which runs along the river Inguri.

Mkhedrioni To Hand Weapons Over to Defense Ministry

LD0805160694 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] An extraordinary congress of the Rescue Corps—the Mkhedrioni—has been held in Tbilisi.

In addressing the congress, the founder of this organization, Jaba Ioseliani, said that the time had come to hand over to the Georgian Defense Ministry all the weapons belonging to the Mkhedrioni. Owing to the nature of their work, 300 members of the Rescue Corps were given the right only to carry revolvers. It is categorically forbidden to carry or possess automatic weapons.

The congress paid special attention to the rendering of material assistance for and placing in a job of the families of Mkhedrioni members killed in Abkhazia and other regional conflicts.

Constitutional Democratic Party Head Resigns

LD0905160894 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1430 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 9 May—A session of the leading committee of Georgia's Constitutional Democratic party has been held. Party Chairman Girogi Korganashvili officially announced his resignation at the session.

Tamaz Okruashvili, who previously headed the party's Executive Committee, has been elected chairman of the Constitutional Democratic party.

Radioactive Equipment Stolen From Tbilisi Institute

LD0905211894 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2000 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] A radioactive machine, previously used to help eliminate the effects of the Chernobyl disaster and contained in a special box on the premises of the radiological institute in a Tbilisi suburb, has been stolen by unknown persons. According to the institute, the polluted machine is extremely dangerous to people around it. There has been no trace of the thieves so far.

Estonia

Laar Returns From France, Notes Emphasis on European Ties

WS0905065894 Tallinn ETA in English 1530 GMT 5 May 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar, who returned from a state visit to France on Thursday [5 May], told a press conference at the Tallinn Airport that his talks with French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Foreign Minister Alain Juppe centered mainly on one topic—the as fast as possible integration of Estonia to Europe.

Laar said that Balladur stressed the need for Estonia to conclude, as soon as possible, a free trade agreement with the European Union and start negotiations to conclude an associating agreement. Together with Foreign Minister Alain Juppe a concrete schedule of Estonian integration towards Europe was discussed.

Laar gave credit in Estonia's quick movement especially to France and Germany.

Another issue that was discussed at the meetings was the current situation of Estonian-Russian relations and Russian troop withdrawal from Estonia. Laar said that if there existed fear that Estonia was having pressure upon her to conclude similar agreements with Russia as Latvia did, this fear was unfounded. Laar said that France had offered a possibility for Estonian-Russian inter-state negotiations to take place in the framework of European stability or the so-called Balladur pact, which would "increase the importance of the negotiations and help to make clear to Russia that mainly Russia will win from the troop withdrawal."

Estonian Minister of Economics Toivo Jurgenson, who accompanied Laar during the visit, said that Estonian delegation had also met high-level economic, banking and employers union representatives in France. He said that Estonia got a preliminary promise that France will guarantee, in the nearest future, middle-term credits for Estonia.

Laar: No Intention of Making Concessions to Russia

WS0905114994 Tallinn BNS in English 1211 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, 7 May, BNS—Laar said Estonia would like to follow the "Lithuanian model" in pulling out Russian troops and does not intend to make concessions like those Latvia agreed upon, Estonian Prime Minister said Saturday [7 May] in an interview.

Lithuania and Russia signed in 1992 a protocol and a timetable for troop withdrawal, but did not conclude any framework agreement to regulate the issue.

"The Estonian Government doesn't intend to make any concessions to Russia," Laar emphasized in the interview with BNS.

In the premier's view, Russia's failure to propose a date for the next round of talks in essence means suspension of the negotiations.

"We are ready for talks and prepared to discuss all questions in a constructive spirit," Laar told BNS.

The prime minister said the withdrawal of Russian troops has come to a virtual standstill in recent months and that about 2,500 troops still remain in Estonia.

The prime minister claimed Russia lacks the slightest wish to reach agreement and sign the prepared troop withdrawal accord.

Vasily Svirin, Russia's top negotiator, declared after the end of the latest round of talks that Russia will sign the agreement on the troop pullout only in a package with the accord on social guarantees for military retirees. He referred to the respective Latvian-Russian agreements initialed on 30 April.

Laar Calls for Clarification of Grachev Remarks

LD0905190894 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar has instructed the Foreign Ministry to demand from the Russian Foreign Ministry clarification concerning Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's 6 May anti-Estonian statement. The prime minister hopes that the Russian defense minister's statement represents his personal stance and not the official standpoint of Russia. The Estonian prime minister expressed hope that the Russian Foreign Ministry will refute Grachev's irresponsible and (?tension-creating) statement. In Mart Laar's opinion, the statement by the Russian minister of defense may increase (?a dangerous threat) to Estonian independence and sovereignty.

Meri Visit to Portugal Interrupted by Grachev Statement

WS0905123194 Tallinn ETA in English 0743 GMT 9 May 94

[From 7, 9 May EESTI SENUMID, P.EVALEHT, p. 1; "News Bulletin" No. 88/94]

[Text] President Lennart Meri interrupted his visit to Portugal and returned a day sooner than planned because of the statement by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Gratchev.

Gratchev announced in Moscow on Friday [6 May] that Russia may keep its troops in Estonia indefinitely unless the issue of the retired military be settled according to Russia's demands. He added that the forces could be increased "in order to protect military sites in Estonia."

Head of the Russian negotiations delegation Vasili Svirin declined from commenting the minister's threats. He had earlier assured that the troops stationed in Estonia will not be reinforced.

President Meri attended an international meeting in Arrabida near Lisbon, dedicated to the prevention of conflicts

by the UN and the NATO. "A threat by one UN member state to use military force against another member—Estonia—is a serious matter. For that reason I interrupted my visit, hurried back and discussed the ways of countering the threat on Saturday evening," Meri said in his speech held on Mother's Day.

Tendencies of increasing reliance on force and attempts of realisation of the "near abroad" policy are evident in Russia's policy, Foreign Ministry Vice Chancellor Raul Malk commented the Russian defence minister's threats. Malk pointed out that the Gratchev statement contradicts the CSCE and the UN documents on the troops withdrawal from Estonia. "The Gratchev statement is a direct challenge to the authority of international demands. The Russian defence minister's threats of stopping the military withdrawal and reinforcement of present troops prove Moscow's increasing attempts to force its will on other states and international organisations," Malk commented.

He also stressed the fact that Gratchev made his statement while the negotiations were still going on. This can be understood as a way of exerting pressure on Estonia, as well as a Russian decision to give up negotiations, Malk said.

The states which remain indifferent witnesses of the tendencies in Russian politics will accept a grave responsibility, the vice-chancellor warned.

Alleged Military Alert Said To Force Meri's 'Hasty Return'

WS1005091294 Tallinn ETA in English 0704 GMT 10 May 94

[From 10 May RAHVA HAAL, p.1; "News Bulletin" No. 89]

[Text] An unnamed official is quoted as claiming that the hasty return of President Lennart Meri was caused by an alert to the Defence Forces declared by Commander in Chief General Aleksander Einseln in connection with the statement by Russian Defence Minister Grachev. The same source claimed that the alert was later renamed regular training exercise.

Chief of the GHQ Colonel Arvo Sirel rejected the claims, declaring that the Defence Forces had held a regular exercise on Saturday [7 May] night in order to train the deployment of officers. There was no alert, he stressed, explaining that the GHQ has a practice of holding such sudden checkups of deployment every month. The date for Saturday's exercise had been agreed upon last December, the colonel said.

Russia had also reported the violation of its airspace by an Estonian aircraft. The Border Guard Department denied having alerted its forces at that time, but Director General Tarmo Kduts admitted the exercise and a flight of a Border Guard patrol aircraft. "Our aircraft did fly during the exercise, but in Estonian airspace. I do not know what aircraft the Russians are speaking about," he said.

Government spokesman Ain Saarna claimed to have no information about an alert or exercise. "I cannot comment it, this is a matter of the Defence Forces," he said.

President Demands Grachev Statement Clarification

LD0905152994 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1400 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Lennart Meri, president of the Republic of Estonia, today summoned Aleksandr Trofimov, the Russian Federation's ambassador to the Estonian Republic, and requested an official explanation concerning the statement by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, according to which the defense minister does not consider himself bound to the withdrawal of Russian armed forces by 31 August, but deems it possible to bring additional Russian armed forces into Estonia.

President Lennart Meri emphasized that Estonia will continue to strive for relations between Estonia and Russia to be correct, good-neighborly, and trustworthy, which has been and will remain the aim of Estonia's foreign policy.

The ambassador promised to obtain a speedy clarification, as demanded.

This report was released by the press service of the chancellery of the president.

Ministry Official: Russia Has Not Discarded Power Politics

WS0905120994 Tallinn BNS in English 1211 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, 7 May, BNS—A deepening tendency to arm-twisting and attempts to implement the "near abroad" concept are becoming apparent in Russia, Deputy Chancellor of the Estonian Foreign Ministry Raul Malk said in a comment on the statement Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev made on Friday [6 May].

Grachev told reporters in Moscow Friday that 2,500 Russian troops will remain in Estonia until the problem of Russian military retirees is solved. The minister also declared Russia may bring additional troops into the Baltic country to defend its military facilities there.

In Malk's opinion, Grachev's statement clearly conflicts with the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations documents about the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic states.

"Grachev's statement is a direct challenge to the authority of international requirements. By threatening Estonia with stopping the troop pullout and bringing in more military, the Russian defense minister verified Moscow's strengthening attempts to force its will on other states and international organizations," Malk told BNS.

Malk attached great importance to Grachev's timing of his remarks to coincide with the 19th round of Estonian-Russian troop withdrawal talks.

"It can be regarded as an attempt on Russia's part to pressurize Estonia to make concessions. On the other hand, the statement of the Russian defense minister can be considered as giving up ironing out problems through negotiation," Malk said.

The Foreign Ministry deputy chancellor expressed the opinion that the states, which observe without protest the growth of power policy tendencies in Russia, assume a "heavy responsibility."

Ministry Statement Notes 'Stalemate' in Talks With Russia

WS1005084494 Tallinn Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Release in English 1651 GMT 6 May 94

["Immediate release" from the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tallinn dated 6 May: "Estonian-Russian Talks Round Ends in Stalemate; Russians Refuse To Put August 31 Date Back Into Agreement, Continue Demands"—received via Internet E-LIST]

[Text] The 19th round of Estonian-Russian troop withdrawal negotiations held on 5-6 May at Lohusalu near Tallinn ended in another stalemate today with both sides sticking to their positions. During this round the two sides did not discuss the general agreement at all.

At the post-talks press conference in Tallinn, Russian negotiator Vasiliy Svirin stated that no further troops will be brought to Estonia, but refused to comment on press reports that today in Moscow Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev threatened to do just that.

Although the general agreement has been ready for initialing since March, the Russian side refuses to reinsert the clause referring to the already agreed-upon final withdrawal date, 31 August 1994. Despite an international obligation to withdraw "unconditionally," Russia continues to demand Estonian compliance with substantial conditions. Specifically, Russia has refused to initial the agreement until Estonia agrees 1) to pay $23 million to the Government of Russia and 2) to initial an agreement on pensioned military officers.

Although troop withdrawal cannot be linked to any other issues, including social guarantees for demobilized Russian military personnel, Estonia has continued negotiating in good faith. Unfortunately, the Russian side has gone beyond demanding Estonian residency for former Red Army troops. They state that Estonia must give these individuals special treatment and privileges over those enjoyed by Estonian citizens. Although years served in the Soviet Armed Forces do not count as working years for privatization purposes even for Estonian citizens, the Russian side says that years spent in the Red Army must be counted for their military pensioners. This demand is particularly egregious as the Red Army was the basic instrument for repression of civil liberties and human rights in Eastern Europe.

In a further setback, the Russian side declared that the defuelling of the nuclear reactors at Paldiski Training Center cannot be started before a detailed agreement is signed legalizing the presence of some 200 military personnel there plus their families until the end of the century.

Some progress was made in the humanitarian and border issues group. The next round will be in Moscow, but the Russian side failed to name a date, proposing that the working groups meet in between rounds.

Legislator Says Russia, Grachev Waging 'Psychological War'

WS1005084194 Tallinn ETA in English 1706 GMT 9 May 94

["News Release"]

[Text] "If Russia has declared a psychological war against Estonia, the whole nation has to be included in a fight against Russia that has violated international agreements," MP [member of parliament] Vardo Rumessen told the parliament on Monday [9 May]. Rumessen said that Russia was deliberately dragging on the inter-state negotiations to gain time. He said that Riigikogu [parliament] foreign committee should initiate a bill in connection with Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev's threat to bring more troops to Estonia, in which Riigikogu should present a categorical demand to withdraw Russian troops from Estonia by 31 August 1994. Rumessen, a representative of Estonian National Independence Party, also called for all people who cared about the future of their homeland to organise protest actions against the continued presence of Russian troops in Estonia.

President Meri Receives Polish Counterpart

LD0905131994 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1100 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Polish President Lech Walesa and his wife Danuta are on a state visit to Estonia. Walesa and Estonian President Lennart Meri held a one-hour-long talk at the Kadriorg Palace.

At noon high officials of the two countries' foreign ministries signed bilateral agreements on the prevention of double taxation and on blocking the avoidance of taxes.

Walesa will also meet with Prime Minister Mart Laar and Ulo Nugis, speaker of the Riigikogu, and will lay a wreath at the monument [in Tallinn] to students who fell in the War of Liberation.

Today the Polish president will also meet with Poles resident in Estonia.

Notes Common History With Poland

WS1005085794 Tallinn ETA in English 1647 GMT 9 May 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Estonian President Lennart Meri who Monday [9 May] night hosted a reception to honour Poland's President Lech Walesa and Mrs. Danuta Walesa said the countries shared a bitter experience brought about by the 1939 pact between Nazi Germany and communist Soviet

Union and later agreements between the allies and had the responsibility before Europe to avoid history repeating itself.

"The historic experience of our people and us both springs up from the same soil: both reborn Poland and reborn Estonia are the children of Munich, the Hitler-Stalin pact, Tehran and Yalta," Meri said.

Meri said that this experience obliges the countries to think and act for Europe even if Europe neglects or does not know how to look into the past in order to understand the future. "Our experience must become European conscience," Meri said.

Meri said that the paradox in Western democracy lies in the fact that it cannot defend itself before it is too late although democracy cannot ever be fatally late, but the price to be paid later must be paid with blood and suffering.

Meri also touched upon Estonian-Russian relations saying Russia must show in action that it has cut through its ties with the defunct Soviet Union and that it is looking for its place in the world respecting the principles of international law.

"Estonia cannot put up with the recent situation where one UN member country threatens another UN member country with military measures in order to achieve political goals," Meri said on referring to a statement made on Friday by the Russian Defence Minister, Pavel Grachev, on considering increasing its military presence in Estonia if it felt the rights of ethnic Russians were not protected.

Estonia remains the only Baltic state with whom Russia has no formal agreement on troop withdrawal.

President Lennart Meri on Saturday interrupted his visit to Portugal to return to Estonia and discuss the situation. On Monday, he asked Russia's ambassador Aleksandr Trofimov to explain the statement of his Defence Minister.

Polish President Meets With Meri, Laar

WS0905131994 Tallinn BNS in English 0858 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, 9 May, BNS—Polish President Lech Walesa and his wife, Danuta, landed Monday [9 May] morning in the Tallinn airport starting a state visit to Estonia.

The Polish president and his Estonian counterpart, Lennart Meri, started negotiations in the Kadriorg palace at 1100 local time. After their meeting, at 1200, senior officials from both countries' foreign ministries will sign bilateral agreements on avoiding double taxation and preventing tax evasion.

Walesa is scheduled to meet on the same day at 1300 with Prime Minister Mart Laar and at 1530 with parliament Chairman Ulo Nugis. Walesa also will place a wreath on a memorial to fallen schoolchildren.

The Polish president's agenda includes a meeting with the Polish community and a tour of Tallinn's Old Town.

Walesa continues his visit on Tuesday in Poltsamaa region of Estonia and Tartu. He meets with the rector and other leaders, as well as students, of Tartu University, and gives a press conference.

The Polish head of state leaves Estonia on 10 May from Tartu.

Walesa Cited on Russian Ties, Free Trade

WS1005083994 Tallinn ETA in English 1648 GMT 9 May 94

["News Release"]

[Excerpts] Poland's President Lech Walesa met Estonian President Lennart Meri, Prime Minister Mart Laar and Riigikogu's [parliament] speaker Ulo Nugis during his two-day visit to Estonia.

Monday [9 May] at noon, Estonia and Poland concluded an agreement on avoiding double income and capital taxation. [passage omitted]

Estonian-Polish cooperation must cover all fields, from national security to education, President Lennart Meri told an improvised news conference on Monday

Walesa said Poland had several ideas on how to promote inter-state cooperation. "I am sure that my current visit will contribute to promoting bilateral relations and that our countries will only gain from it, also in the material sense," he said.

Commenting on Polish-Russian relations, Walesa said that civilised and democratic Russia could be a good partner to Poland in case it respected the same values Poland did. "As Poland's President I can say that I will not allow to set the Russian yoke on Poland again," Walesa said.

Both Meri and Walesa agreed Kaliningrad would be a good economic asset for the Baltic Sea region while it remains a serious source of problems as a military stronghold.

Laar said Estonia and Poland will in near future sign a free trade agreement. "Poland's President would have been willing to sign it at once," Laar said while adding that Estonia would set up an embassy in Warsaw very soon.

Poland's president also visited Estonia's parliament and met its speaker, Ulo Nugis. Nugis and Walesa also discussed the situation of ethnic minorities in Estonia. [passage omitted]

Discusses Presidential Elections

LD0905190194 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1700 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] A declaration of collaboration in developing a European security system, creating a climate for wider economic cooperation, and support for the idea of building a Via Baltica highway—these are the most important results of the talks held by President Lech Walesa on the

first day of his official visit to Estonia. Lech Walesa talked to Estonia's President Lennart Meri, Prime Minister Mart Laar, and Parliamentary Chairman Ulo Nugis.

The president said that it is ever more clearly visible that Europe is becoming a united states of Europe. That is why, he said, we have to create it together.

Referring to the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia, on whose territory there are 2,500 servicemen, Lech Walesa stressed that maintaining troops on foreign territory is not only inconvenient, but also illogical. However, he noted that we must show understanding for Russia, which is constantly withdrawing its soldiers, and for its leaders, who has to explain this to the Russian public.

In the presence of the presidents of Poland and Estonia, the two countries' deputy foreign affairs ministers signed an agreement on avoiding double taxation.

During a meeting with Poles living in Estonia, President Walesa said he would probably have to stand in the presidential elections.

Everything indicates that I shall have to stand, said Lech Walesa, because, as he put it, the job is not yet done and much work remains to be done in Poland. I feel sorry for Poland, the president added, and I do not want to waste the achievements of the last few years.

Poles resident in Estonia told the president about their problems; about a shortage of text books for learning Polish, and about difficulties in communication between the two countries. One of the participants in the meeting, a former Home Army soldier, recalled Solidarity achievements in the struggle for an independent Poland and persecution under martial law. President Lech Walesa said the situation has changed since then. He added that today Solidarity is first and foremost a trade union. He emphasized that the split which has taken place in Solidarity was necessary because a new political stage is being constructed. Pluralism must reign in Poland, he added.

The president also expressed the hope that his visit would contribute toward stimulating economic contacts between the two countries. According to him, so far both countries have not done enough toward this.

Prime Minister Departs on Official Visit to UK

WS1005090694 Tallinn ETA in English 0704 GMT 10 May 94

[From 10 May PEVALEHT, p. 3; "News Bulletin" No. 89/94]

[Text] Prime Minister Mart Laar left for a visit to the United Kingdom yesterday, the government press service announced. Laar is accompanied by Economy Minister Toivo Jurgenson, officials of the premier's chancellery Riina Varts and Ain Saarna and Foreign Ministry officials Priit Pallum and Eve-Kulli Kala.

Laar is to meet British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd, Minister of State Douglas Hogg, members of the British-Baltic parliamentary group, ex-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and representatives of British business circles. Laar is also to speak in the Oxford University and at the CEETEX '94 fair.

Laar is to return on Thursday [12 May]. Justice Minister Kaido Kama will replace him in his absence.

Foreign Minister's 9 May Address to WEU

WS1005084594 Tallinn Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Release in English 1300 GMT 9 May 94

["Remarks" by Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik at the meeting of defense and foreign ministers of Western European Union member states in Luxembourg on 9 May—received via Internet E-LIST]

[Text] Esteemed Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is truly a pleasure to take part in today's historic meeting called to inaugurate the enhanced position of nine states from Consultation Partner to Association Partner status in the WEU [Western European Union]. Estonia warmly welcomes this step as a clear political signal that these nine states are regarded as having the best chance of eventual membership in the European Union.

At the same time, the new enhanced status being celebrated here today attests to the common values that we, the nine new Association Partners, share with the WEU member states. It is these shared values that constitute a common point of departure for European integration on all levels and in all phases of life, including defence policy. Estonia takes great pride in being part of a group dedicated not to old ideas, such as the reassertion of empire, but rather to the goals of building a stable Europe based on consensus and democracy.

As Association Partners, we will seek to take an active role in helping construct the new structures of European security. We would hope to participate as fully as possible in discussions held in the WEU, and through these discussions, to integrate our policies with the European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy.

We regard the WEU's decision to extend Association Partner status simultaneously to the "Group of Nine" seated here today as showing great foresight. This move is consistent with the WEU's earlier decision to invite these nine states to be Consultation Forum members at the same time in the Summer of 1992.

Since that time, the international political arena has changed significantly. For instance, all of us new Association Partners have joined NATO's Partnership for Peace [PfP] program. In the meantime, other states have begun speaking of condominium [as received] arrangements for assuring the security of Europe, as Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev did last Saturday [7 May] when he rejected PfP, saying that it did not suit Russia. In bidding for a special relationship with NATO, which Mr. Kozyrev

has referred to as "a real partnership," the Russian Federation has taken upon itself to dictate the content of the PfP program for the other, more ordinary partners. This claim to special status threatens to stymie the ability of other states to realize their full potential under PfP. Given this sort of argumentation coming from Moscow, we are all the more gratified by the WEU's decision to extend nine states enhanced status. This move demonstrates the WEU's singular understanding that we cannot and should not draw borders in today's Europe, especially not borders that could once again become curtains wrought of iron.

I would turn now to an issue that is not only of vital importance to us but which also has become a touchstone of European security, namely troop withdrawals from Estonia. As you are all aware, our negotiations with the Russia Federation have come to a virtual standstill. During the more than two years that we have been negotiating with Russia, Estonia has put forth constructive proposal after proposal, which have been regularly and systematically rejected by the Russian side. Our agreement on troop withdrawals has been ready for signing since the beginning of March, but Russia continues to delay, reopening discussion of questions that were resolved long ago.

Furthermore, in violation of obligations it has incurred in various international fora to pull the troops out in an "early, orderly, and unconditional" fashion, Russia continues to link withdrawal to other issues, primarily to so-called social guarantees for retired and demobilized military officers. While we have rejected this linkage from the start, we understand that Russia needs an agreement on these reserve officers, and for this reason have continued negotiating in good faith. Still, despite our best efforts, Russia continues to insist on special privileges for these officers, privileges above and beyond those rights our own citizens enjoy.

As you have surely heard, during our 19th round of negotiations, which ended last Friday near Tallinn, the Russian side failed to name a date for the next round of talks. Instead, the Russian negotiating team said a subsequent round would not be held until Estonia tables sufficiently constructive proposals as to justify holding a round. In effect, this means that Russia has suspended talks until Estonia gives in to its demands, which include, among other things, that Estonia change its internal legislation. Not only does this stance suggest that Russia has an interesting view of what compromise and negotiation should entail, it also suggests a rather bizarre concept of sovereignty.

And as if this ultimatum-style approach were not enough, last Friday, the same day as our negotiations ended, Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev told reporters in Moscow that if Estonia does not meet all of Russia's demands, Russia may not withdraw the troops at all, but rather may boost the military presence in my country. The fact that Grachev, representing one UN member state, threatened to invade another UN member state, at the very same time as withdrawal talks were going on, is unacceptable if not ludicrous. We are certain that the international community will not remain silent, but will give its clear, unmistakable, and public appraisal of this open intimidation.

I would stress here that Estonia attaches particular importance to participation in the political and security consultation mechanisms foreseen for the Association Members of the WEU. We are eager, for instance, to establish a liaison arrangement with the Planning Cell and to become involved in WEU-led humanitarian and rescue tasks as well as tasks of combat forces in crisis management. Another area of special interest to us is peacekeeping. As you know, along with our Latvian and Lithuanian colleagues, we have established a joint Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion. We hope to offer our joint battalion to the WEU for peacekeeping operations, and look forward to being involved in the command structures and decisionmaking processes that will accompany these future operations.

I would conclude my remarks by once again drawing your attention to the historic nature of our meeting here in Luxembourg today. Today's WEU meeting holds the same importance for us as did the NATO summit last January. Both meetings—January in Brussels and May in Luxembourg—will be seen by historians as marking the ascent to an entirely new plateau in European security. Through these meetings, Estonia has taken a small step toward full integration in European security structures. But for all of us gathered here, today's meeting represents a giant leap toward creating a new European Defence Identity.

Thank you.

Liberal Democrats, Right-Wing Youth Movement Sign Agreement

WS1005084394 Tallinn ETA in English 1706 GMT 9 May 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Chairman of the Estonian Liberal-Democratic Party (ELDP) Paul-Eerik Rummo and chairman of the right-wing Respublica youth movement Meelis Kitsing signed, on Monday [9 May], a cooperation agreement, which prescribes cooperation on all areas of politics and gives Respublica members a right to be put up for Riigikogu [parliament] elections in ELDP list.

Rummo told a press conference that Estonia's future demands new educated and right-wing people both among liberals and the whole Estonian society and expressed hope that young politicians' representation in the next parliament would be bigger than now.

Respublica has concluded a similar agreement with the ruling Fatherland Party.

Luik: Baltics Want Free Trade Area With Visegrad States

WS0905123294 Tallinn ETA in English 0743 GMT 9 May 94

[From 9 May P.EVALEHT, p. 3; "News Bulletin" No. 88/94]

[Text] Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik met Poland's Foreign Minister Andrzej Olechowski in Warsaw on Friday [6 May] while attending the Baltic Sea region parliamentary conference. They discussed the agenda for the meeting of foreign ministers of the Council of Baltic Sea States to take place in Tallinn on 24-25 May, cooperation prospects between the Baltic and Visegrad states, Russian political developments and the Estonian-Russian relations.

The foreign ministers came to the conclusion that the Baltic states should form a common free trade area with the Central European countries, the Foreign Ministry announced. The Polish foreign minister also declared Poland's support to Estonia's demand that the Russian troops be withdrawn from Estonia by 31 August 1994.

The Polish and Estonian foreign ministers agreed that negotiations concerning Polish-Estonian defence cooperation within the "Partnership for Peace" programme be started and a cooperation protocol between the foreign ministries be signed in the near future.

Juri Luik addressed the Polish Senate foreign affairs commission and the parliamentary conference, describing the activities of the Council of the Baltic Sea States during the last year and Estonia's idea of the future of the council. Luik supported the recommendation on the forming of a mechanism for coordinating the cooperation between the Baltic Sea States parliaments and the Council.

Luik is to attend the WEU [West European Union] consultations forum foreign and defence ministers meeting in Luxembourg today.

Ruling Coalition Leader Cited on Falling Approval Ratings

WS1005092794 Tallinn BNS in English 1601 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, 9 May, BNS—Paying little attention to publicity rather than political failure is the reason behind Pro Patria's declining approval figures in opinion polls, says Tiit Sinissaar, the chairman of the ruling coalition's senior party faction in the Estonian parliament.

According to the outcome of the latest poll by the EMOR agency, Pro Patria's support among voters has fallen under the critical 5 percent.

"Pro Patria has been attacked and accused from all directions and our biggest mistake is that we haven't had time beside other things to make publicity for our actions," Sinissaar told BNS.

He also said it was natural that the political party that is in power would lose popularity among voters. When the standard of living increased last fall, also the people's expectations began to be higher than what was actually possible, he said.

"Pro Patria has conducted a thorough analysis of these factors," Sinissaar said. "Our forecast is that the economic situation, and, arising from this, also the social situation will start to improve in Estonia in the near future," he said.

He added that the party has learned its lesson from the recent developments and is now set to better explain the background and aims of its activity.

As a first example of this, Sinissaar and Prime Minister Mart Laar wrote an article that was published in today's edition of the HOMMIKULEHT daily newspaper.

Sinissaar said he believes that the party's approval ratings will be on the increase soon, because "everything that the coalition has done in the past year and a half starts to give tangible results namely now."

Official: People Entering Russian Offices Should Be Watched

WS1005084294 Tallinn ETA in English 1759 GMT 9 May 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Deputy Chairman of Estonian Riigikogu [parliament] Tunne Kelam told the 13th picket against continued Russian military presence in Estonia that the last Russian troops in Estonia "do not leave Estonia through the Narva bridge but plain-clothes Russian military absorb into Estonian society."

He said that from the Russian military headquarters premises in Tallinn, in front of which the pickets take place, young plain clothes Russian military have been continuously seen to "absorb" to Tallinn. Kelam added that Estonia must not allow such a deception. He said that it was necessary to observe movement of people to the premises of Russian military and out of them.

Latvia

Premier, Defense Minister Begin Visit to France

WS1005120394 Tallinn BNS in English 1004 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Riga, May 10, BNS—Latvian Government delegation continues its visit to France Tuesday [10 May]. The delegation is led by Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs.

During the visit, cooperation between Latvia and France in the sphere of economics, defense and security, and Latvia's participation in the European stability pact will be discussed, Government Information Agency told BNS.

Birkavs is scheduled to meet with French President Francois Mitterrand, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and the Defense and Interior Ministry's high-ranking officials.

Latvian delegation also includes Defense Minister Valdis Pavlovskis, Foreign Ministry's Parliamentarian Secretary Martins Virsis, State Property Minister Edmunds Krastins, Saeima Committee for Budget and Finance Head Andris Piebalgs, and Latvian Home Guards Staff's Chief Juris Eihmanis.

Pavlovskis and French defense minister plan to sign Wednesday an accord on cooperation.

Latvian delegation will also meet Wednesday with the parliamentarians of the French National Assembly, and the president of the largest French water supply Lyonnaise des Eaux company.

As reported, Lyonnaise des Eaux delegation visited Riga recently and offered Latvia a project for the reconstruction of Riga water supply and sewerage system.

The Latvian delegation plans to return to Riga on Wednesday.

Birkavs Hopes for Early EU Membership

AU0605123894 Duesseldorf HANDELSBLATT in German 6-7 May 94 p 10

["ay"-signed report: "Economic and Political Integration Is Being Pushed Systematically"]

[Text] Duesseldorf, 5 May—Before the end of this year, Latvia intends to begin talks with Brussels on membership within the European Union. The head of government, Valdis Birkavs, has staked great hopes on the German Presidency. He told HANDELSBLATT that he believes he enjoys "a certain sympathy in Germany."

Birkavs also considers the country's further integration into Western Europe to be a demonstration of political stability. Following agreement with Russia on the definitive troop withdrawal, which was sealed in April and May this year, European policy has been given priority again. In June, the free trade agreement with the European Union will be initialed; early next year, an association or partnership status with the Western European Union [WEU] will be on the agenda, "and then we will go ahead with the EU negotiations." At the same time, talks are being held on Latvia's GATT membership.

Birkavs says that the free trade agreements, on which talks are currently being held between Brussels and the three Baltic states—Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania—are not fully in line with the agreements Brussels concluded with other Eastern European reform states. "For us, agricultural and textile exports, which are critical issues, take precedence." Both are aspects that in the agreements with Eastern Europe were not solved to the reform states' satisfaction. "Textile exports in particular are, for us Latvians, quite sensitive points. Even the Soviets used the textile sector in Latvia as a political lever. On the one hand, they forced the development of a personnel-intensive textile production, and then brought Asian and Russian labor to Latvia." Following the collapse of the Russian market, Latvia now has such export capacities, but also sees itself confronted with Western European import quotas, says Birkavs.

It is true that the negotiations with the European Union on accession could be held in parallel with those of Estonia and Lithuania, but according to Birkavs, they do not have to lead to identical results. Whereas Estonia is seeking a transition period of four years, Lithuania is considering an adjustment period of six years: "We in Latvia can well do without a transition period, because we have advanced our economic reform most consistently." This concerns not only the development of administrative market economy structures, but also many economically relevant areas. The privatization of state-run companies is to be completed within two years. Two-thirds of all production capacities will then be in private hands, while some parts of the energy sector (in particular gas production), the transport sector, and telecommunications will remain under public control. Inflation has been decreased to an annual rate of 15 percent, the time of a decline of GDP is definitely over. This year, a growth of 5 percent in real terms has been predicted. Even the capital market is in excellent shape, owing to a high influx of capital. However, the latter is not only attributable to the confidence of Western countries favoring investment in Latvia. It is largely also a Zhirinovskiy effect—named after the Russian nationalist after whose election victory rich Russians safely deposited their money in Latvia. This apparently constitutes only a moral problem for Latvia—"our borders are open, everyone can invest his money here."

Despite assessments in Western Europe, the "Baltic market"—meaning political and economic cooperation with Estonia and Lithuania—is functioning ever better and, surprisingly, "above all, since in Lithuania the socialists have returned to government." In September, the completion of the Common Market was agreed upon ("We will have to wait several months to see how it works"), customs were abolished, monetary policies will be aligned, energy cooperation has been deepened, and political coordination in the scope of the Baltic Council of Ministers has been improved. Birkavs admits that for the first time following independence, there have been problems and delays in Baltic cooperation, "but we are understanding one another increasingly more."

Premier Visits Skrunda Radar in Move Toward Transfer

MK0605123094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 May 94 p 1

[Unattributed RIA report: "The Act of Transfer of the Skrunda Radar Station to Latvia Has Been Signed"]

[Text] The Russian military has presented documentation on the new building of the Skrunda radar station as well as a model of the site with all the structures to Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs, who visited the Russian military installation accompanied by Valdis Pavlovskis, defense minister; Girts Lukins, environmental protection and regional development minister, and other officials.

The aim of the visit is to establish which material assets will stay at Latvia's disposal and which Russia will evacuate. Documents on the transfer of the installation, which spreads over a territory of 42 hectares, were also signed.

Latvian, Russian Figures on Army Units Differ

LD0905161594 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1500 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] The timetable for the withdrawal of the Russian Army, which Russia submitted as a supplement to the Latvian-Russian treaty signed on 30 April, does not include many Russian military facilities and Army units stationed in Latvia. According to information at the disposal of Ilgonis Upmalis, head of the Latvian bureau for monitoring the withdrawal of the Russian Army, 191 Russian Army units are stationed in Latvia at 247 military facilities. The timetable submitted by Russia includes 155 military units and formations, as well as command structures.

Mr. Upmalis today explained that the formations of military facilities mentioned in the timetable and list submitted might include many separate military facilities. However, in this case it is impossible to define precisely the number of facilities and Army units included in the formations. According to Upmalis, it is planned during this week to assess the timetable submitted by Russia and to make a list of Army units which have not been included in the timetable. Then it is planned to submit the list to the command of the Northwestern Group of Russian Forces and the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Revised Draft of Citizenship Law Prepared

WS1005105794 Riga DIENA in Latvian 25 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by Sanita Upleja: "Second Reading of Citizenship Law Expected in Mid-May"]

[Text] Riga, 22 Apr—Apparently, the second reading of the draft law on citizenship will take place on 12 or 19 May, when the plenary sessions of the Saeima [parliament] are scheduled. The working group established by Latvia's Way has prepared the draft, which is to be discussed by the Judicial Commission next week.

In accordance with the draft, the naturalization of noncitizens would begin on 1 January 1996. In the case of noncitizens who are entitled by this law to preferential treatment, it would be possible for them to apply from the moment the law becomes effective.

As DIENA was told by Aivars Endzins, chairman of Saeima Judicial Commission, the naturalization of noncitizens would be carried out in a set period of time and order of events, which will state which categories of people and in what order they will have the right to apply for citizenship. In the draft, prepared for the second reading, Latvia's Way has abandoned the primary principle of naturalization quotas, and due to the recommendations of experts from the European Council, they are now arranged in a precise order.

Beginning on 1 January 1996, noncitizens, who were born in Latvia and are between 16 and 23 years of age, would be able to apply for citizenship. The draft law foresees a five-year period for obtaining citizenship; at the beginning of 1996, this period will be completed, so it will be possible to begin naturalization. After that, beginning on 1 January 1997, the next group of noncitizens, those who were born in Latvia but are older than 23, will be addressed. In 1998—people who arrived in Latvia as infants.

According to the draft law, all other people wishing to obtain Latvian citizenship would be able to apply beginning in the year 2000.

The draft law foresees preferential treatment for people who are permanent residents in Latvia, whose relatives are of second- generation Latvian or Liiv origin, and their spouses, as well as for people who have legally arrived to Latvia before 1940, people who were brought to Latvia by force during the German occupation and their descendants, and spouses of Latvian citizens. As A. Endzins explained, these people can submit naturalization applications as soon as the law becomes effective. The naturalization of this category of individuals could be finished before the next round of Saeima elections, therefore these people will be eligible to vote by that time.

The draft law on citizenship foresees that Latvian citizenship can be obtained by so-called Russian Latvians, whose ancestors were living in Latvia before 1 August 1914, and who now permanently reside in Latvia.

The draft also states that retired Russian military personnel and their family members cannot apply for Latvian citizenship, except in cases where they have were born or mobilized in Latvia, but even then the naturalization process takes place in due course, according to the obligations fixed by the law—knowledge of the Latvian language, Latvian history, and the Latvian Constitution, as well as loyalty and the number of years [of residency] defined by the law.

Regarding military pensioners as well as other foreigners and stateless individuals, their status should be defined by the law on foreigners and stateless people, which should be adopted in concert with the citizenship law, stated Judicial Commission Chairman A. Endzins. The Juridical Commission is currently drafting the said law for its first reading, on the basis of drafts submitted by Latvia's Way and the Concord for Latvia. In addition, the Latvian National Independence Movement and "Fatherland and Freedom" have submitted their own draft laws on foreigners and stateless people.

Daily Publishes Opinion Poll on Party Popularity

WS0905135194 Riga LETA in English 1145 GMT 9 May 94

[From the "Latvian Press Review"]

[Text] Riga, May 9 (LETA)—The newspaper "DIENA" publishes the results of an opinion poll which showed which party or political movement people would vote for if the elections would take place tomorrow instead of the planned date of May 29. Thus, at present, 18.1 percent of voters are ready to vote for the Farmers' Union; 16.6 percent—for Latvia's National Independence Movement; 13.9 percent of voters support "Latvian Way"; 8.5 percent—"For Fatherland and Freedom"; 5.7 percent—the

Green Party; 4.3 percent—Latvian Popular Front; 4.2 percent—the National Harmony Party; 4.2 percent—the Democratic Labour Party; 4.1 percent—the Christian Democratic Party; 3.9 percent—"Equal Rights" and 0.6 percent—Social Democrats.

Coalition Faction Reportedly Considers Replacing Ministers

WS1005115394 Riga LETA in English 1020 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Riga, May 10 (LETA)—The newspaper DIENA reports today on a possible replacement of some ministers which was discussed at the meeting of the "Latvia's Way" faction on Saturday [7 May]. However the party's official stated that there is no connection between the scheduled changes in the government and a possible breakdown of the ruling coalition. Some portfolio reappointments might be expected after the discussion on the work performed by the government during nine months. Apparently the changes in the government will possibly occur before MP summer vacations. One of the leaders of "Latvia's Way," Indulis Berzins, said that it is not an intended breakdown of the coalition which is in question. If the premier wishes to replace a minister this post will be offered to a counterpart of the coalition. In case the Farmers Union's officials find it necessary to leave the coalition then portfolios will be offered to other parties with the exception of right and left radicals—"Equal Rights" and "For Fatherland and Freedom".

Pact on Visa-Free Travel Concluded With Slovakia

WS1005115694 Riga LETA in English 1020 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Riga, May 10 (LETA)—At the session of the cabinet's Committee for Foreign Affairs and Security held on Monday [9 May] the draft agreement was accepted between Latvia and Slovakia on mutual visa renouncement. It provides that citizens of both countries will be able to enter the other state and stay on its territory 90 days without a visa.

Victory Day Rally Recalls 'Good Times'

WS1005120894 Tallinn BNS in English 1004 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Riga, May 10, BNS—Latvian Socialist party organized Monday [9 May] a rally to mark victory over Germany in World War II. Nearly 2,000 people took part at the meeting at the Victory monument.

The participants of the meeting recalled battles, commemorated the victims of the war, and they invited war veterans to fight for their rights. They remembered the "good times" of the communist regime, regretted their having supported "perestroyka", and protested against "capitalism in Latvia."

They claimed that presently there is ethnic inequality in Latvia, and they were dissatisfied that only the citizens of Latvia are allowed to take part a the local governments elections.

The participants of the meeting said they hoped that the agreement between Latvia and Russia on retired Russian militaries' social guarantees, signed on April 30 in Moscow, would improve their life in Latvia.

Lithuania

Brazauskas Marks Anniversary of War's End

LD0705134194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0852 GMT 7 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burburlis]

[Text] Vilnius, 7 May—The 49th anniversary of the end of the Second World War will not be celebrated officially in Lithuania. But war veterans will undoubtedly meet up to recall the past and lay wreaths at the graves of their fallen comrades-in-arms.

The single official gesture related to the event was a statement by President Algirdas Brazauskas published today, which to all intents puts the occupiers and liberators of Lithuania on the same level. The head of state said that Lithuania had been occupied more than once and trampled upon by more than one occupier during the years of the Second World War.

At the same time, the president notes that thousands of Lithuania's citizens—Lithuanians, Russians, Poles, and Jews—had contributed to the joint struggle against Hitler. No one has the right to erase them from history, belittle their sacrifice, or wipe their names from the national memory.

Reaction to Grachev Statement on Suspending Troop Pullout

Parliament Head 'Alarmed' by Remarks

LD0905164694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1601 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] The head of Lithuania's parliament said he was alarmed by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's recent statement that Russia might suspend its troop withdrawal from Estonia.

Ceslovas Jursenas, in an interview with Interfax on Monday, expressed the hope that Grachev had been stating his own rather than President Boris Yeltsin's position.

"Any delays with the troop withdrawal, and especially the deployment of an additional contingent, would not only be a clear manifestation of pressure on what is a sovereign state but would also mean disregard of the opinion and position of the world community and a violation of provisions enshrined in the documents of the United Nations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and other influential international organizations," Jursenas said.

"It is not pressure but negotiations based on principles of equality and mutual respect that are the only way to solve problems," he said.

Statement Shows 'Disrespect' for Estonia

LD0905150894 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] We have received a statement made by the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning Russia's threats.

It indicates that a statement made by Pavel Grachev and Russia's policy in general on the negotiations with Estonia show disrespect toward the partner in negotiations and for international law as well as for the processes and documents of all Europe's members and participants, of which Russia itself is one [sentence as heard].

Such statements made by high-ranking Russian officials increase tension in the region and threaten the security of the Baltic countries, the statement by the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs reads.

Landsbergis on Russian 'Blackmail'

LD0905110494 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0600 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of the Lithuanian Seimas right-wing opposition, made a statement yesterday concerning pressure exerted on Estonia by the Russian militarists.

The statement reads: Now comes Estonia's turn, after Latvia had been overtaxed. Open blackmail is used by the Russian minister of defense, who threatens that if the conditions of his country are not accepted, the remaining 2,500 foreign servicemen will not be withdrawn from Estonian territory; even an additional invasion [as heard] could not be excluded. This is a challenge to the West, and at the same time is a test of how Russia would be allowed to treat Estonia—and before long, Lithuania. Our nearest neighbors should come to the aid of Estonia while reminding the Russian militarists and the world that these troops have to withdraw from Estonia unconditionally.

If the troops remain deployed against Estonia's will, then it will prove once again that these troops remain occupational troops and are being used for the preparation of a new aggression. In turn, a big country threatening a small neighbor with armed force should not even apply for acceptance into the Council of Europe.

All this strangely coincides with the anniversary of the end of World War II. It would be beneficial for the world to be aware that this war has not yet ended everywhere. In Estonia, the foreign troops that entered Estonia 50 years ago continue to be deployed there against Estonia's will. In some capital cities of Europe, embassy buildings of the Baltic states continue to be seized by Russia," Landsbergis' statement reads.

Landsbergis Views Reasons for Comment

WS1005091994 Tallinn BNS in English 1754 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Vilnius, May 09, BNS—A recent Baltic summit in Jurmala may have encouraged Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev to make a threatening statement with respect to Estonia, the leader of the Lithuanian parliament's rightist opposition said Monday [9 May].

Vytautas Landsbergis told reporters in Vilnius that judging from Russian TV reports, Lithuanian and Latvian president's urged Estonian President Lennart Meri to accelerate troop withdrawal talks with Russia.

The opposition leader said is was "a big political mistake" to urge Estonia without urging Russia because two Baltic states indirectly pressured the third one.

Landsbergis also noted that the future of Russian troops in the Kaliningrad region should be discussed on an international level. Commenting on Russia's intentions to merge Kaliningrad navy, army and air force headquarters into one center, Landsbergis said such steps are usually done to improve the efficiency of operations.

Politically, Landsbergis said, the step would mean that Russia strengthens its military presence in the center of Europe. He said there is also a possibility that Russia wants to know the limit beyond which there would be strong reaction from the West.

Envoy on Prospects of Agreement With Russia

PM0905131994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 May 94 Single Edition p 6

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis especially for ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA: "Will the West Open Its Embrace if Moscow's Position Does Not Suit Vilnius?"]

[Text] "Following the latest round of talks with the Russian delegation headed by Ambassador at Large Viktor Isakov on 21-22 March in Moscow, the Russian position has not changed but has not hardened either," Virgilius Bulovas, ambassador at large, member of the Seimas, and leader of the working group holding negotiations with CIS countries under the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry, stated. He announced that a document has been prepared and will be sent to Mr. Isakov; this document is, so to speak, an indirect response to the letter sent just the other day by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to our head of state Algirdas Brazauskas.

"We have some doubts as to whether the Russian side has correctly understood our objectives regarding military transit from Kaliningrad Oblast via Lithuanian territory. We merely expounded these orally at the meeting in Moscow without handing over the text of the appropriate document. In the letter addressed to Mr. Isakov we have now expounded Lithuania's official position on this issue," V. Bulovas said.

Explaining the essence of Vilnius' position on the problem of military transit, the Lithuanian ambassador said that for the time being the Seimas has not adopted an appropriate law and the republic's authorities are certainly not hindering the transportation of the Russian troops and weapons that are being withdrawn from the former GDR, thereby acting on the basis of bilateral agreements. He also announced that at the present time a statute on the transportation of dangerous military freight via Lithuania is being prepared for adoption. "We are not hiding the fact from Russia that in preparing this document we are consulting with specialists from other countries, and when the plans are ready we will discuss them with Russian experts."

The ambassador had difficulty in naming a date for the next meeting between the Lithuanian and Russian Federation delegations. Among other things, this will deal with certain transit conditions and also the coming into force of the agreement on reciprocal granting of most-favored-nation trading status signed by the premiers of the Russian Federation and Lithuania in Vilnius last November.

The agreement is vitally important for the republic because Russia is Lithuania's principal economic partner, but Moscow is putting forward more and more conditions, linking its implementation, for example, with demands for guarantees from Vilnius that it will ensure the normal economic activity of Kaliningrad Oblast.

"Lithuania does not intend to take any measures that would damage the oblast's economy. However, if Russia henceforth intends to pursue a policy of 'time-wasting' in implementing the treaty, thereby pushing us—whether deliberately or not—into the embrace of the West, Lithuania will take appropriate measures," V. Bulovas said.

"We have invited one of the Russian foreign minister's deputies to Vilnius, and I hope that Mr. Isakov will accompany him. It is then entirely possible that a date for the next round of talks can be set. Even though I believe there is inadequate 'groundwork' for such a meeting. But we will reach agreement with Russia sooner or later: There is a desire for agreement on both sides," V. Bulovas stressed in conclusion.

French Embassy Cited on WEU Associate Membership

WS1005090494 Vilnius ELTA in English 1759 GMT 9 May 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 495]

[Text] Vilnius, May 9, ELTA—A session of Ministers of West European Union (WEU) was held on Monday [9 May] in Luxembourg. In the afternoon a meeting of a consultative forum which united countries belonging to West European Union as well as countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Baltic states, took place.

This forum will give the associated membership for the Central and East European and Baltic countries, French Embassy told ELTA on Monday.

The associated members will have the right to observe the meetings of WEU council and participate in its activities.

The ministers will also discuss the situation in the former Yugoslavia and the role of WEU countries in stabilizing it. The relations between EU [European Union] and WEU will be considered by them.

The status of the associated membership is the outcome of the joint initiative of France and Germany.

President Criticizes Vilnius City Council

WS1005091394 Tallinn BNS in English 1754 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Vilnius, May 09, BNS—"We probably don't even remember such a devastated Vilnius," Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas said in his traditional Monday [9 May] radio interview this week.

The president said he most probably made a mistake by persuading the parliament not to dissolve the Vilnius City Council last year. "It seemed then that new city leaders are emerging, and it was expected that conclusions would be drawn. But this did not happen," Brazauskas said.

Sharply criticizing activities of the capital's municipal authorities, the president recalled an incident with the French Lyonnaise des Eaux company, which suggested to create a joint water-supply company in Vilnius, but the proposal was rejected in a rude manner.

Brazauskas said the Vilnius council mixes politics with municipal problems. "One party even has its headquarters" in the municipality building, he said.

In Brazauskas' view, activities of Vilnius authorities defame the entire country because they fail to keep promises to foreign embassies, diplomats have to look for premises themselves.

The president emphasized that the city council is fully responsible for the present situation in the capital and added that the council's dissolution may have to be discussed soon. Brazauskas also urged the parliament to draft a capital city law.

'State Coup Scenario' Said To Serve LDDP Activities

WS1005081194 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 26 Apr 94 No. 80 p 2

[Report by Ricardas Jarmalavicius: "Another 'State Coup Scenario' or Echoes of Moscow in Vilnius"]

[Text] Seimas [parliament] deputies yesterday found a "state coup scenario" in their office mail boxes, which was allegedly discovered on the eve of 1994 in Vilnius, near one of the "villas in Turniskes." Copies of the scenario

were distributed at the request of A. Kuncinas, deputy chairman of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDDP] faction.

This "scenario" and the "version No. 1," which caused a scandal in Moscow a month ago but which proved to be a journalists' forgery, are like two peas in a pod.

According to the authors of this "document," the implementation of the "coup" requires the incitement of society through a variety of methods, including the staging of strikes and the organization of referendums. This would allow for the ousting of Lithuania's current government and the legalization of a new one.

One of the LDDP faction leaders, who wanted to remain anonymous, told a RESPUBLIKA reporter that he had had copies of "those documents" as early as six months ago. However, he failed to "leak" them to the public (the newspaper has some information that those "documents" were circulated to other editorial offices four months ago, but no one wanted to publish them). The aforementioned LDDP leader says that he cannot find any arguments to refute that the "scenario" was written by the LDDP itself. The LDDP activist, who fears publicity, claims that he knows that this "plan" emerged immediately after the right-wing political forces lost the Seimas elections.

According to RESPUBLIKA information, the "coup scenario" will promptly prove useful for new actions scheduled by the LDDP. First of all, the latter intends to torpedo the referendum organized by the Homeland Union concerning the adoption of the law "On Illegal Privatization, Devalued Deposits and Stocks, and Law Enforcement Violations." The LDDP does not fear the law but the possibility of including a question about early Seimas elections on the referendum ballot at the very last moment. The LDDP can apply to the Constitutional Court with a request to examine whether the referendum law, which was adopted in the times of the Lithuanian SSR, does not violate the Constitution.

Commanders Express Distrust in Security Committee

WS0905143694 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 26 Apr 94 No. 80 p 2

[Report by Jaunius Pocius: "The Military Demands"]

[Text] Captains J. Marcinkus and A. Arlauskas, commanders of Lithuania's only two air bases situated in Meskuiciai, Siauliai region, and Pajuoste, Panevezys region, voiced their distrust in the Seimas [parliament] National Security Committee [NSK] and its chairman, V. Petkevicius.

A statement sent to the president, the Seimas, and the government reads: "The NSK has changed from a controlling body into a dictatorial one. It is obvious that Chairman V. Petkevicius and the group which leads the committee have thus far failed to realize the functions that the NSK must perform."

The commanders claim that "the NSK leadership is exerting particularly powerful pressure on the Air Force. (...) The statement that the few current training fighters are sufficient to meet the needs of military aviation can be seen as inflicting damage to the prestige of the Air Force. The need to control our airspace and state borders is fully ignored. Regardless of state security interests, the Zokniai (Siauliai) airport, which lies in a perfect strategic location suitable for military aviation, was transferred to commercial interests. Its reinforced concrete hangars are used to store groceries, while military aircraft are standing under the open sky."

Asked to comment on this statement, A. Arlauskas, commander of the second air base, said that the NSK seems to be deliberately destroying the national defense system. However, everything is done to remove the guilt.

According to A. Arlauskas, V. Petkevicius, who recently visited the airports in Panevezys and Siauliai along with the president and the national defense minister, demonstrated his complete ignorance when he asked in everyone's presence: "From whom must we defend our airspace?"

Pilots were indignant over the behavior of the NSK chairman during his visit to Siauliai—the latter allowed himself to degrade the commander of the first air base and the pilots by calling them "blue suckers." Captain J. Marcinkus sent a report to the president in connection with this.

Captain A. Arlauskas said that the majority of servicemen at the second air base are skilled aeronautical engineers. However, the latter are employed as guards, because the staff has not yet been confirmed. He claimed that there will soon come a time when there will be no one to manage the airport.

IMF Threatens To Suspend Credits

LD0805160494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1535 GMT 8 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius May 8 TASS—During a meeting with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas, chief of the International Monetary Fund's Baltic Branch Adalbert Knobl and IMF representative in Lithuania Peter Kornely expressed concern over the republic's increasing budget deficit.

The meeting was also attended by the Lithuanian prime minister, finance minister and chairman of Lithuania's bank board of directors.

National radio quoted on Sunday the IMF officials as saying Lithuania's deficit had exceeded the level specified by the memorandum which was signed by the republic's government and the IMF. Unless the situation over the mounting deficit is rectified in the near future, the International Monetary Fund may suspend credits earmarked

for Lithuania. The IMF officials believe the first thing to be done by the Baltic republic is to cut back on budget expenditures.

The IMF representatives expressed regret that Lithuania had not yet passed a law on its National Bank, nor had it taken any measures to regulate activities of commercial banks. The officials were especially critical about reliability of statistic data which they said did not reflect the actual economic situation in Lithuania.

Inflation Hits Low in Apr; Expected To Rise in May

WS1005092894 Tallinn BNS in English 1601 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Vilnius, May 09, BNS—Inflation dropped to this year's record low of 1.6 percent in April, the Lithuanian Statistics Department said. Inflation ran at 3.3 percent in March, 2.9 percent in February and 4.8 percent in January.

But prices for personal care products and medical services went up by 6.9 percent, transportation and communication prices jumped by 6.7 percent.

Food, liquor and tobacco prices edged up by 0.4 percent.

Household operation expenses increased by 5.5 percent, clothing, education and recreation expenses went up by 2.7 percent. Prices for other goods and services increased by an average of 2.5 percent.

Inflation slowed down considerably during the first four months of this year, as compared to last year. Inflation reached 25 percent in April last year, the overall rate of inflation in 1993 was 188.7 percent.

But experts suppose that inflation will jump again because of the value-added tax that came into effect May 1.

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